

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

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

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY
SUPPLEMENT NUMBER EIGHT
1 NOVEMBER 1944 - 30 NOVEMBER 1944

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

NEGATIVE.

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

1ST LT. OWEN R. MC CAUL - KILLED IN ACTION 27 NOVEMBER.

3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS.

NEGATIVE.

4. ORGANIZATION.

NEGATIVE

5. STRENGTH, PERSONNEL.

SIXTY-ONE (61) OFFICERS.

TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-TWO (222) ENLISTED MEN.

6. STRENGTH, AIRPLANES.

1 NOVEMBER 1944 - NINETEEN (19) P-47D-11-RE
SEVEN (7) P-47D-11-RA

30 NOVEMBER 1944 - NINETEEN (19) P-47D-11-RE
FIVE (5) P-47D-11-RA
TWELVE (12) P-38L-0

7. LOSSES, AIRPLANES.

ONE (1) P-47D-11-RE LOST TO FRIENDLY A/A ON 27 NOVEMBER.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF

NARRATIVE

November turned out to be one of the Squadron's busiest and most exciting months since the period immediately following the move to Saipan. A few of the highlights were: B-29's are based on the island, P-38's added to the Squadron, long range escort missions flown, enemy air raids (including one during daylight hours), and last but not least, the opportunity to engage the enemy in aerial combat.

Flying time for the month totalled 1465:40, a gain over the preceding month. The tactical time was 325:10 which was flown during fourteen (14) missions comprising one hundred and twenty-two (122) individual sorties. The balance of the time was made up of the usual C.A.P., Alerts and Training Missions. The long awaited chance for aerial combat (albeit on a limited scale) came when the Squadron acquired twelve (12) P-38L's by transfer from the 21st Group on November 12th. These were ferried from Oahu by 21st Group pilots, eight of whom were assigned to us, eight of our pilots being transferred to the 21st in exchange. Several of our older pilots soon checked out in the P-38's and before the month ended three long range escort missions were flown - two to Iwo Jima and one to Truk. These were joint missions with the 19th and 333rd, they having also received a like number of P-38's and pilots. One of the Iwo Jima missions was escort for two (2) F-5's whose objective was to secure low level photographs of beaches and the escort was under orders to refrain from engaging the enemy unless absolutely necessary. However, on the other two missions

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

mentioned above, six (6) enemy aircraft were destroyed (See appended mission reports). Enemy activity also showed a sharp rise during the month with several raids being made and attempts at daylight reconnaissance. On one of the latter, the reconnaissance plane, an Irving, was shot down by Lt. MC CAUL (a new P-38 pilot) on the morning of the 24th while he was test hopping a P-38 at high altitude. The climax to the enemy activity came on the 27th and gave an indication as to how greatly concerned the Japs are over the presence of the B-29s here, for on that date they not only made an early morning attack (about 0010) but followed it up with a daylight raid twelve hours later just after noon. An estimated fifteen (15) Zekes made the daylight attack and achieved a measure of success by coming in at very low level thus preventing early warning by radar. The raid lasted for more than two hours and when it was over, four (4) Zekes had been destroyed by fighters of the 318th Group (including two at Pagan) and ten (10) were knocked down by our A/A. The B-29s did not escape unscathed and our Squadron suffered a tragic loss when Lt. MC CAUL, leading our scheduled C.A.P. flight when the raiders arrived, was lost as a result of fire from our own A/A. Several of the missions flown in November constitute what are undoubtedly the longest entirely over water flown by fighters during the war. They averaged about 1500 miles and required approximately seven and a half hours.

The completion of the Squadron's mess hall just about wound up our construction projects for the time being at least. A portion of the old mess hall was retained and occupied by Special Service, giving that section a much better set-up. To illustrate what has been accomplished, a modest photographic section is incorporated in the history for this month as appendix

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

#2. The pilots also added another wing to the officers' club, the original part having been outgrown as a result of the considerable increase in the number of pilots since the Squadron moved from Isley to East Field in August.

Twenty-one (21) more enlisted men were lost by the squadron in November under the re-assignment plan, thus leaving us with the lowest number in several months. The engineering section was the hardest hit with fourteen (14) men leaving and this, coupled with the increase in airplanes, has placed quite a burden on them. Practically all men lost were so-called "key personnel" but despite this the section has kept the maintenance record high. With more men due to leave in December, the question of when replacements are to arrive looms big. Due to a lot of hard work on the part of all sections, the problem posed by getting in² new type of plane was handled in a highly satisfactory manner. With construction work practically completed and requisitions for materials greatly reduced, the Personnel Supply section has been able to devote more time to its' own particular problems with a resulting increase in efficiency.

While the squadron's Medical Detachment's records showed a slight increase of personnel on sick call over the preceding month, the over-all health picture for November was decidedly better than in the past. There was no Dengue fever at all and practically all cases treated at the Dispensary were minor ones. Another encouraging sign was an increase in weight disclosed by another check made during the month.

The food situation improved slightly with the appearance of some fresh items of diet and the morale of the organization can be said to be fair.

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

It can be safely stated, that everyone in the Squadron has had his shoulder to the wheel, the result being a feeling that we are successfully accomplishing our mission.

Our commanding officer, Major HUSSEY, left late in the month on a well earned leave of absence and command was assumed by 1st Lt. WILLIAM R. WILSON.

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CHRONOLOGICAL SECTION

1 November: Cpl ELDON W. PETERSON asgnd to Squadron fr 6th Night Fighter as of 2 October 1944.

Lts. Stevens, O'Hara, Miller, DeVona and Furge, DS to Oahu

2 November: Saipan attacked by enemy planes at 0030.

5 November: Pvt NORMAN L. NUNNEMACKER asgnd to and joins Squadron from Hq and Hq 7th A.F. as of 22 October.

12 November: Twelve (12) P-38Ls assigned to Squadron.

Following listed new Pilots join Squadron. Asgnd 8 November from 7th Fighter Command.

1st Lt. OWEN R. MC CAUL	0-737179
DONALD C. KANE	0-450041
ROBERT H. AMON	0-796678
2nd Lt. ROBERT W. REDFIELD	0-806523
VICTOR C. BESCHE	0-812737
HORACE D. BENNETT	0-760233
GERALD J. HEAGNEY	0-763815
F/O DAVID G. WALKER	T-2664

13 November: Following listed officers transferred from Squadron to VII F.C.

2nd Lt. ROBERT G. ANDERSON
CHARLES J. FIETZ, JR.
LOUIS C. SPILLMAN
ALFORD J. BABCOCK
JACK COUNTS
FLOYD E. RICE
ROBERT J. THOMAS
JOHN (NMN) FURGE

16 November: M/Sgt DEE T. PEYTON and T/Sgt WARREN R. PIKE leave Squadron on re-assignment bill. Trfd to casual depot CPBC, A.P.O. 954.

18 November: Following enlisted men trfd in gr to PQM unasgd and are atchd unasgd to casual depot CPBC, A.P.O. 954 (RO to US), par 1, SO 305 Hq VII A.F. Last two men on list (par 1, SO 306, Hq 7th A.F.).

T/Sgt FREDERICK A. BRAUN
STANLEY A. JAMRCS
DALE E. RIGNEY
CARMELO TASCA
WILLIAM A. TURLEY
S/Sgt WILLIAM S. BISHOP
JOHN E. DORTMAN
LEONARD T. EGAN
VIRGIL L. HAYES

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M/Sgt HAROLD S. HEISEY
 S/Sgt GERALD E. MOONEY
 KENNETH L. POWELL
 VERNON C. RUBENKING
 CHARLES P. SWEET
 EDWARD M. WHITE
 Sgt DONALD J. DAUBNEY
 Pvt WALTER B. DUNCAN
 FERDINAND J. WEIDNER
 S/Sgt JOHN A. DEIFENBACH

22 November: On escort mission to Truk, Major HUSSEY downed enemy plane.

1st Lt. JOHN R. GALT, and 2nd Lt. FRANK J. GRAHAM with
 1st Lt. RICHARD WILKINSON on DS to Oahu.

24 November: Lt. MC CAUL shoots down Jap plane (Irving) while on test-hop.

26 November: Major JOHN J. HUSSEY JR., Sq. CO, fr duty to DS with Hq and
 Hq VII SVC for a period of ten days.

T/Sgt ROBERT J. HARRIS, furlough (30 days) to U.S.

1st Lt. WILLIAM R. WILSON JR., assumed command of Squadron in
 temporary absence of CO.

27 November: 1st Lt. MC CAUL killed in action,, shot down by our own A/A.

0030: Island attacked by enemy planes.

Under battle conditions from 1207 to 1430 during enemy Jap
 attack. 1 Jap plane destroyed by Lts. KANE, MILLER and
 ANDERSON, GL.

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APPENDIX I

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AF

RESULTS OF MONTH'S MISSIONS

APPENDIX I

TYPE OF MISSION

MISSIONS

SAIPAN

PAGAN

TARGET

IWO JIMA

TRUK

Strafing

3

Sorties

20

Sorties

12

Sorties

12

Sorties

12

Rockets and Strafing

3

38

Armed Recon & Strafing

1

3

Armed Reconnaissance

1

6

Interception

2

26

Test Hop

1

1

Escort

3

10

4

18

1

TOTALS

14

27

67

12

10

4

18

1

Total sorties for month: 122
Total abortives : 17

EXPENDITURES FOR NOVEMBER

Cartridges, Caliber .50 32,240

20 mm 983

Rockets 71

Bombs 0

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. # 24429 NOVEMBER 1944
1800 LOCAL316TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-55
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-14

1. (A) SIX (6) P-47D'S
(B) NONE
2. (A) NONE
(B) ~~XXXX~~ ONE UNIDENTIFIED ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED ON GROUND.
3. STRAFING POSSIBLE ENEMY PLANE ON PAGAN.
4. LTS. SNYDER, BRYAN, MATTISON, WEBSTER. (VIOLET 17)
LTS. DE VONA, RESER. (JOSEPHINE)

TAKE-OFF: 1445 OVER TARGET: 1535 LANDED: 1655

VIOLET 17 MADE THREE STRAFING RUNS ON ENEMY PLANE PARKED IN WRECKED HANGAR SOUTH OF SERVICE APRON - RUNS STARTED AT 7,000' DOWN TO 150-200 FEET. PILOTS UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN IF ENEMY PLANE OPERATIONAL BUT STRAFING RESULTED IN SETTING IT ON FIRE AND IT BURNED FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES AND GAVE OFF BLACK SMOKE. THE FLIGHT THEN STRAFED TWO WRECKED BOATS (ESTIMATED 50' LONG) WHICH WERE PULLED UP ON BEACH SOUTH OF WEST END OF RUNWAY UNDER WHICH THEY HAD OBSERVED 8 - 10 JAPS TAKE COVER.

A SUFFICIENT LENGTH OF THE TAXIWAY NORTH OF RUNWAY APPEARED SUITABLE FOR LIMITED LANDINGS AND TAKE-OFFS. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED.

5. (A) ENROUTE - SOLID OVERCAST FROM ANATAMAN NORTH ABOUT 20 MILES.
OVER TARGET - NO CLOUD COVER AT ALL.
(B) LOUD AND CLEAR - NO SKYLARKER.
6. ONE (1) E/A (POSSIBLY OPERATIONAL) DESTROYED ON GROUND.
7. 4405 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER, 1200 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. IF POSSIBLE, TARGETS IN THE VICINITY OF WRECKED HANGAR SOUTH OF SERVICE APRON SHOULD BE ATTACKED EARLIER IN THE DAY, AS THEY ARE IN DEEP SHADOW FROM CLIFF IN LATE AFTERNOON.

HUSSEY

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

27 NOVEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-45
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-13

1. (A) TWENTY (20) P-47D'S
(B) ONE (1) E/A (UNIDENTIFIED)
2. (A) NONE
(B) ONE (1) E/A (DESTROYED BY PLANE FROM 19TH FITERON).
3. INTERCEPTION
4. LTS. SNYDER, WATTISON, HORNER. (VIOLET 17)
LTS. BYERS, PACK, SPIVEY, BESCHE. (VIOLET 14)
LTS. HARBOUR, YAEGER, SHEPARD, O'HARA. (VIOLET 20)
LTS. STEVENS, DANNER, *BARNHILL, CAMPBELL, DE VONA. (VIOLET 15)
LTS. SPENCER, MILLET, RESER, MILLER. (VIOLET 16)

TAKE-OFFS:

VIOLET 17 1215
VIOLET 14 1220
VIOLET 15 1230
VIOLET 16 1410
VIOLET 20 1415

LANDINGS:

1400
1435
1410
1700
1515

*LT. BARNHILL LANDED AT 1330 DUE TO GENERATOR TROUBLE.

WHEN SCRAMBLED AT 1215 VIOLET 17 ORDERED TO MAN AT 30,000' AND PICKED UP BOGEY COMING FROM SOUTH FOLLOWED BY P-47'S OF 19TH FITERON. JUST AS VIOLET 17-1 OPENED FIRE FROM 60 DEGREES JAP PLANE BURST INTO FLAME AS A RESULT OF FIRING FROM TWO (2) P-47'S FROM DEAD ASTERN. JAP PLANE WENT STRAIGHT DOWN FROM 30,000' AND A PARACHUTE WAS OBSERVED TO OPEN AT ABOUT 5,000' -- VIOLET 17 WENT DOWN TO HAVE A BETTER LOOK AT CHUTE AND OBSERVED JAP FALL FROM CHUTE AT ABOUT 3,000'. RADAR WINDOW SEEN ALL THROUGH AREA PATROLLED.

VIOLET 14 SCRAMBLED AT 1220 AND GIVEN VECTOR 330 DEGREES AT 15,000' - CLIMBED TO 18,000' AND VECTOR WAS VARIED BETWEEN 320 DEGREES AND 340 DEGREES - CALLED OFFTEN MILES WEST OF SARIKAN AND ORDERED BACK TO PATROL WILLIAM - UNABLE TO MAINTAIN ALTITUDE ON ACCOUNT OF VIOLET 14-2'S OXYGEN FAILURE - PATROLLED FROM QUEEN TO SUGAR AT 12,000' AND FIRED ON BY FRIENDLY A/A FROM WILLIAM (BURST WERE AT RIGHT ALTITUDE). GIVEN VECTOR 140 DEGREES AT 19,000' AND LET DOWN OVER EASY WHERE TWO REINDEER OBSERVED HEADED SOUTH AT 5,000' - GIVEN VECTOR 180 DEGREES AT 18,000' AND PICKED UP BOGEY WHICH PROVED FRIENDLY - VIOLETS 14-3 AND 14-4 RETURNED TO BASE AT 1400 DUE TO GAS SHORTAGE - REMAINDER OF FLIGHT GIVEN VECTOR OF 350 DEGREES AT 18,000'

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-13, DD 27 NOVEMBER 1944.

4. (CONTINUED)

WHICH WAS FLOWN FOR ABOUT 20 MINUTES PRIOR TO LANDING.

VIOLET 15, SCRAMBLED AT 1230 AND GIVEN VECTOR OF 170 DEGREES TO SOUTHEAST OF AGUIJAN AT VARYING ALTITUDES - FROM MAN GIVEN VECTORS RANGING FROM 270 DEGREES THROUGH 180 DEGREES TO 90 DEGREES AT 11,000' - FLEW 90 DEGREES FOR 10 MILES AND 270 DEGREES FOR 40 MILES - SIGHTED BOGEY AT GREAT DISTANCE TOWARD ROTA BUT UNABLE TO FOLLOW DUE TO GAS SHORTAGE.

VIOLET 18 SCRAMBLED AT 1410 AND SENT TO QUEEN AT 5,000' - BOGEYS APPROACHING LOW FROM NORTH, IDENTIFIED AS FRIENDLY, SENT TO WILLIAM AT 8,000' ON VECTOR 270 DEGREES AND CLIMBED TO 15,000' BOGEY REPORTED 65 MILES WEST CHANGED HIS VECTOR SO SWUNG TO 185 DEGREES - BOGEY WENT OFF PLOTTING BOARD AT ROTA - REMAINED 30 MILES SOUTH OF AGUIJAN AND PATROLLED UNTIL ORDERED TO PATROL OVER TATTERSALL - MAINTAINED LATTER PATROL UNTIL PANCAKE.

VIOLET 20 SCRAMBLED AT 1415 AND WENT 2 - 3 MILES NORTH OF QUEEN - PATROLLED THAT AREA FROM EAST TO WEST AT 1,000' - NO BOGEYS OBSERVED.

5. (A) 4/10 - 6/10 CUMULUS FROM 2,000' TO 5,000'.
(B) LOUD AND CLEAR.

6. NONE.

7. 80 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION. 1200 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.

8. NONE.

HUSSEY

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

27 November 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-45
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-12

1. A. Four (4) P-47D's & two (2) P-38L's.
B. One (1) ZEKE
2. A. One (1) P-47D
B. One (1) ZEKE (Confirmed)
3. Interception.
4. Lts. McCaul, Webster, Miller, Anderson, (GL) (Violet 19)
Lts. Kane, Bennett. (Violet 72)

Takeoff: Violet 19: 1145 Landed: Violet 19: 1320
Violet 72: 1215 Violet 72: 1245

Violet 19 was at 10,000 feet over QUEEN. Bogies called in at 1200 strafing BLUEGRASS. Let down from north to south over BLUEGRASS. Made a 180° turn, headed for X-RAY across Magicienne Bay and were shot at by own A/A. Violet 19-1 was hit by friendly A/A over X-RAY and went down in sea. Bogle was then picked up by rest of flight heading north at 100 feet. Violet 19-3 and 19-4 closed in dead astern and both opened fire at about 400-500 yards. Hits observed. Luftberry over QUEEN and ZEKE got on Violet 19-3's tail. Violet 19-2 broke into Luftberry at 90 degrees and as he did, ZEKE headed for X-RAY. Violet 19-4 and Lt. KANE (in P-38) got on ZEKE's tail (still on deck) and fired until ZEKE went into water. Patrolled over BLUEGRASS at 10,000 feet until got low on gas. Pancaked at 1320.

Violet 72 was scrambled at 1215. Sighted bogie on takeoff run about 5,000 feet off east end of runway being followed by 3 P-47's. Chased ZEKE to Queen and observed 2 hits by P-47 on ZEKE's wing. Caught then at Queen. ZEKE made turn to left which Violet 72-1 attempted to follow but saw that the ZEKE was out-turning him. Violet 72-1 reversed, which may have caused the ZEKE to break away from Violet 19-3. Followed toward X-RAY as ZEKE was chased by 2 P-47's. One P-47 broke away. Violet 72-1 opened fire on the ZEKE at about 1,500 feet and observed hits. Then he fired another burst and the ZEKE hit the water. Due to leak in coolant system of Violet 72-2's plane, the flight pancaked at 1245.

5. A. .4 to .6 cumulus from 2,000 to 5,000 feet.
B. Loud and clear.
6. One (1) ZEKE shot down...destroyed (Confirmed)
7. 4,020 rounds .50 cal. ammo. 32 x 20mm. 750 gallons gas.
8. ZEKE was solid, dark brown in color with red roundels. No tail markings observed. Credit for the destroyed plane is jointly claimed by Lts. KANE, MILLER, and ANDERSON. Violet 19-2's plane sustained two (2) hits from friendly A/A (50 cal.).

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

27 November 1944

INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS
(Group Mission #11-45, 27 Nov. 1944)LT. DONALD C. KANE (Violet 72-1)

I observed the ZEKE, followed by three P-47's, about 5,000 feet off the east end of the runway and at an altitude of 100 feet, as I started to take off. I followed the ZEKE and the P-47's to QUEEN, where I observed two hits by a P-47 on the wings of the ZEKE. At Queen I caught the ZEKE and the P-47's whereupon the ZEKE made a hard turn to the left. I tried to follow, using maneuver flaps, and when I saw he was out-turning me, I reversed my turn which may have caused the ZEKE to break from Lt. MILLER's tail. The ZEKE broke for X-RAY followed by two P-47's, one of which closed and then broke away. I opened up with a short burst at a range of 1,500 feet and I saw the ZEKE stagger a bit. I then fired another burst and saw the ZEKE hit the water. Meanwhile, Lt. ANDERSON in the remaining P-47 was firing at the same time I was and at the same range. Who's fire destroyed the ZEKE is questionable.

/s/ Donald C. Kane
/t/ DONALD C. KANE,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

LT. ROBERT B. MILLER (Violet 19-3)

I sighted the bogie at 3 o'clock at the same altitude. I made a steep turn to right and then to left and ended up on his tail. I fired a short burst and the Jap fish-tailed. I then continued firing bursts and observed hits in the wing roots and fuselage. Lt. ANDERSON made a pass from about 30 degrees right rear and peeled off, his speed being much greater than mine. Jap then made a turn to left. I held him at proper lead and observed hits for about 160 degrees and was no longer able to hold him. Jap made a complete 360 degree turn by the time I made a 180 degree turn and fired at me. I jinked and dumped the nose using water. Lt. ANDERSON and Lt. KANE were on the Jap then and he left me. I made a turn to the right and got back behind the Jap. Lts. ANDERSON and KANE were firing at the time. I was about to fire again when the Jap plane did a slow half roll to the left and ended in the water.

/s/ Robert B. Miller
/t/ ROBERT B. MILLER,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

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Individual Pilot Narrative Reports, (Group Mission #11-45, 27 Nov. 1944) - Continued.

LT. GLEN L. ANDERSON (Violet 19-4)

Shortly after 1200 bogies reported as strafing Bluegrass, Violet 19 at approximately 10,000 feet at Point Queen received orders to "Buster to Bluegrass". Flight made let down out to sea and came across Bluegrass from southeast to northwest approximately 4,000 feet. Headed for Point X-Ray - through intense flak - lost leader. Sighted one bogie low at 0200 o'clock from X-Ray. Violet 19-3 led flight after ZEKE to Point Queen. 19-3 and 19-4 got in a few bursts before reaching Queen. At about 100 feet over North Field one Slicker joined in Luftberry. ZEKE out-turned Duckbills and fired at Violet 19-3 then dove to the deck and headed for X-Ray. A short distance off Queen, ZEKE went into water with one Slicker and Violet 19-4 firing - hits were observed on ZEKE.

/s/ Glen L. Anderson
/t/ GLEN L. ANDERSON,
2nd Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

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

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO #244

27 NOVEMBER 1944

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

1. A. EIGHTEEN (18) P-38L'S. (ONE DID NOT TAKE-OFF; FIVE OTHERS DID NOT REACH THE TARGET.
B. ONE TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT; THREE TO FIVE ZEKES.
2. A. NONE.
B. TWO ZEKES (CONFIRMED).
3. ESCORT TWO SQUADRONS OF B-24'S AND ONE F-5 TO IWO JIMA.
4. LTS. JACOBSON, RICKARD, LOFLIN, SITTON. (VIOLET 3).
LTS. WILSON*, F/O WALKER*, LTS AMON*, SMITH* (VIOLET 5).
CAPT. PARK, LTS. SULLIVAN, STEPHENSON, JAMES (VIOLET 1).
CAPT OTTENSTEIN AND LT. ERBELE (VIOLET 4).
MAJOR ROESER, LTS REDFIELD*, STROUD, STOLZ (VIOLET 2).

* 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON PILOTS.

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

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

VIOLET 3 WERE TO ACT AS TOP COVER FOR 3 B-24S WHO FURNISHED THE NAVIGATION ESCORT. WHILE ORBITTING BETWEEN MINAMI ROCK AND IWO JIMA, VIOLET 3-1 OBSERVED ONE ZEKE MAKE A HEAD ON PASS ON THE NAVIGATING B-24S, AND PULL AWAY IN A 180 DEGREE TURN. THE ZEKE DROPPED TWO PHOSPHOROUS BOMBS ON THE B-24S BUT DID NO DAMAGE. VIOLET 3-1 PULLED IN BEHIND THE ZEKE AND FIRED THREE BURSTS, THE LAST OF WHICH WAS EFFECTIVE. PIECES FELL AWAY FROM THE ENEMY'S TAIL SECTION AND FUSELAGE AND THE ZEKE STARTED TO SMOKE. AS THE ZEKE ROLLED OVER OUT OF CONTROL, VIOLET 3-2 FIRED A SHORT BURST AS VIOLET 3-1 BROKE AWAY. THE ZEKE CONTINUED IN A STEEP DIVE AND WAS OBSERVED TO CRASH AT SEA. THIS ACTION WAS CONFIRMED BY VIOLET 3-2 AND VIOLET 3-3. AS THE STRIKE FORCE OF B-24S WITHDREW FROM THE TARGET, VIOLET 3-3 OBSERVED ONE ZEKE WITH 2 P-38S ON HIS TAIL, HEADED FOR THE ISLAND. THE P-38S BROKE CONTACT AND WITHDREW WHEREUPON VIOLET 3-3 AND VIOLET 3-4 GAVE CHASE. THE ZEKE WAS PURSUED TO WITHIN 5 MILES OF IWO JIMA WHERE HE WAS OVERTAKEN BY VIOLET 3-3. HE SHOT AWAY PIECES OF ZEKE'S TAIL

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-11

4. CONTINUED:

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

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

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

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

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

5. A. ENROUTE: 4/10 CUMULUS. TOPS 9,500 FEET, OVER TARGET: 3/10 CUMULUS, TOPS 9,500. RETURN: 4/10 CUMULUS, TOPS 9,500.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
6. NO DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY ON THE GROUND.
7. 1,830 RDS 50 CAL. 327 RDS 20 MM. 8,500 GALLONS GAS.
8. THE ZEKES WERE PAINTED OD OR VERY DARK GREEN. NO SPECIAL MARKINGS WERE OBSERVED.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

26 NOVEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-32 37
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-10

1. A. FOURTEEN (14) P-47D'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. STRAFING RUNWAY AND ADJACENT AREAS ON PAGAN.
4. LTS. SPENCER, AYLER, SHENEMAN, MARTIN, T. (VIOLET 18).
LTS. HARBOUR, CAMPBELL, BARNHILL, TITUS (VIOLET 20).
LTS. SHEPARD, YAEGER, BYERS, HANDLY (VIOLET 19).
LTS. MILLER AND DE VONA (JOSEPHINE).

TAKE-OFF: 1420 OVER TARGET: 1515 LANDING: 1630

ALL THREE FLIGHTS (VIOLET 18, VIOLET 19, AND VIOLET 20) MADE ONE STRAFING RUN IN THAT ORDER FROM WEST TO EAST HITTING RUNWAY AREA AND REPORTED GUN POSITION SOUTH OF SERVICE APRON. RUN STARTED AT 7,000 FEET FROM WHERE FLIGHTS WENT IN ON THE DECK. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED AND DUE TO CLOUD COVER, OBSERVATION OF THE RUNWAY WAS DIFFICULT.

5. A. ENROUTE - 2/10 CUMULUS FROM 1500 TO 4000 - NO MEDIUM OR HIGH.
OVER TARGET: 9/10 CUMULUS FROM 1500 TO 4000 FEET - NO MEDIUM OR HIGH.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR. NO SKYLARKER.
6. NONE.
7. 4,960 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER - 2940 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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

24 November 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-35
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-9

1. A. One (1) P-38L
B. One (1) twin-engine enemy aircraft (IRVING).
2. A. None
B. One (1) twin-engine enemy aircraft (IRVING) destroyed, confirmed.
3. Test Hop.
4. Lt. McCAUL. (Bingo 55)

Takeoff: 0905 Landed: 0930

While on routine test hop at 28,500 feet, Bingo 55 observed plane at 28,000 feet flying south just west of Bluegrass and started closing in on him over Tinian to investigate. At same time Bingo 55 identified other plane as IRVING. It turned into and under him and was temporarily lost. Regular C.A.P. flight led by Violet 19 (Lt. SHEPARD) sighted bogey at 27,000 feet about 10 miles west of Bluegrass and called in his position while starting to close on him. Bingo 55 picked up the enemy again and began closing rapidly - fired two short bursts from 20 degrees-30 degrees at maximum range and then got on Jap's tail, opening fire at about 300 feet. Hits observed on IRVING's left wing and engine and this engine then flamed. Irving then broke away from about 100 feet and went into spiral dive - exploded at about 10,000 feet and wreckage fell in water about 10 miles west of Saipan. Destruction of enemy aircraft confirmed by Violet 19.

5. A. 4/10 cumulus from 1,500 feet to 6,000 feet. High clouds negligible.
B. Loud and clear.
6. None
7. 120 rounds 20mm; 740 rounds .50 calibre; 60 gallons gas.
8. IRVING was dark brown in color (solid) with red roundels -- no tail markings observed.

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Individual pilot statements regarding 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-9, 24 November 1944, are quoted herewith:

1ST LT. OWEN B. McCAUL

(Bingo 55)

I was on a high altitude test hop when I saw a plane at 28,000 feet. I didn't think we had any planes that high so closed in on him over Tinian. He turned into me and under and I lost him. Lt. SHEPARD then called him at about 10 miles west of Saipan at 26,000 feet, heading north. Having 29,000 feet and altitude advantage, I closed in and gave him a couple of short bursts out of range. Closing in rapidly I gave him a long burst and he flamed. Broke away at about 75 to 100 feet. Jap plane hit the water 10-15 miles west of Saipan.

/s/ Owen B. McCaul
/t/ OWEN B. McCAUL,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

1ST LT. ROBERT L. SHEPARD

(Violet 19)

I was leading a four plane C.A.P. flight and had been directed by Control to split my flight and investigate two bogies. They sent me to 16,000 feet over Point QUEEN and said the bogie was at approximately 18,000 feet headed for Point SUGAR. Lt. McCAUL then called in Jap bogie at 27,000 feet over north tip of Tinian. I climbed to 28,000 feet. I sighted bogie at 27,000 feet 10 miles due west of Bluegrass about four miles from me. I called him into Control and started after him. I had closed to about 1500 yards when Lt. McCAUL made a pass on the bogie from the right and fell in on his tail. The bogie flamed and dropped in a steep diving spiral. No one left the plane and it exploded about 10,000 feet. I watched the wreckage strike the water. Positively destroyed.

/s/ Robert L. Shepard
/t/ ROBERT L. SHEPARD,
1st Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

C. L. Hoover

C. L. HOOVER,
Captain, Air Corps.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

22 NOVEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-33 (CONSOLIDATED)
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-8

1. A. TWENTY-SIX P-38L'S. (ONE RETURNED SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF).
B. EIGHT ZEKE'S; ONE SINGLE-ENGINE FLOAT PLANE.
2. A. NONE.
B. THREE ZEKE'S DESTROYED (CONFIRMED), ONE ZEKE DAMAGED, ONE ZEKE PROBABLY DESTROYED.
3. ESCORT TWENTY-SIX B-24'S OF THE 30TH BOMB GROUP ON BOMBING STRIKE TO TRUK.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS DONOHUE, RUFF, GIBSON (VIOLET 1).
CAPT TENNANT, LTS SPAULDING, JACOBSON, MORRIS (VIOLET 2).
MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS SMITH, AMON, BESCHE (VIOLET 11)*
LTS WILSON, HEAGNEY, SNYDER, BENNETT (VIOLET 12)*
CAPT PARK, LTS SULLIVAN, EUSTIS, RIVAS (VIOLET 13).
CAPT OTTENSTEIN, LTS MONVELLE, FANCHER, ERBELE (VIOLET 3).
LTS. KANE, REDFIELD (SPARES)*

*VIOLET 11, VIOLET 12 AND THE TWO SPARES WERE 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON PILOTS.

TAKE-OFF: 0733 OVER TARGET: 1100-1130 LANDING: 1511

LT SMITH (VIOLET 11-2) RETURNED TO BASE AT 0915 DUE TO DIFFICULTY WITH HIS FUEL SYSTEM. ONE OF THE SPARE PILOTS, LT REDFIELD TOOK LT SMITH'S PLACE IN VIOLET 11 FLIGHT. LT KANE, THE OTHER SPARE, TRAILED THE FORMATION ENROUTE TO TARGET.

THE SIX FLIGHTS RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE BOMBERS OVER ISLEY FIELD AT 0745 AND THE ENTIRE FORMATION PROCEEDED TO TRUK. THE BOMBERS FLEW AT 17,000 FEET AND THE FIGHTERS AT 23,000 FEET. WHEN THE FORMATION REACHED THE REEF SURROUNDING THE TRUK ISLAND GROUP, THE BOMBERS CONTINUED SOUTH TO THEIR TARGETS AND THE FIGHTERS SKIRTED THE REEF TO THE EAST. THE PLAN WAS TO DRAW THE ENEMY FIGHTERS TO ATTACK THE BOMBERS AS THEY COMPLETED THEIR BOMB RUN.

VIOLET 1 OBSERVED MEAGER TO MODERATE HEAVY A/A FIRE, BURSTING BETWEEN 18,000 AND 21,000 FEET. THE FIRE SEEMED TO BE OF THE BARRAGE TYPE. AS VIOLET 1 CAME IN FROM EAST-SOUTHEAST AT 23,000 FEET, ONE ZEKE WAS OBSERVED AT 22,500 FEET AT 2 O'CLOCK. VIOLET 1 LEADER ATTACKED THE ENEMY FIGHTER, WHO TOOK NO EVASIVE ACTION OTHER THAN A SLIGHT TURN. FOUR BURSTS WERE FIRED, THE LAST FROM 200 FEET DEAD ASTERN. THE ZEKE SEEMED TO STOP ON MID-AIR AND THE TAIL SECTION WAS SHOT AWAY. IT ROLLED OVER ON ITS SIDE AND STARTED TO DIVE FOR THE DECK AT AN ANGLE OF 70 DEGREE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-8

4. CONTINUED:

SMOKE WAS ISSUING FROM THE FALLING PLANE. VIOLET 1 LEADER SAW THE ZEKE FALL WITHIN 1000 FEET OF THE WATER, WHERE HE LOST HIM DUE TO CLOUD COVER. VIOLET 1-2 WAS IN POSITION TO OBSERVE THIS ACTION AND DEFINITELY CONFIRMED THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT AS BEING DESTROYED. SHORTLY AFTER THIS ACTION, TWO ZEKES WERE OBSERVED OVER THE BOMBER FORMATION, ALTITUDE 17,500 FEET. AT THE SAME TIME VIOLET 1-3 CALLED IN ANOTHER ZEKE AND PEELED OFF TO ATTACK. THE ENTIRE FLIGHT FOLLOWED AND DISCOVERED THE CALLED-IN BOGEY TO BE TWO ZEKES FLYING PARALLEL AND TO THE RIGHT OF THE BOMBERS. ONE ZEKE APPEARED TO ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THE BOMBER FORMATION WHILE THE SECOND ZEKE FLEW STRAIGHT AND LEVEL. VIOLET 1-3 TURNED LEFT TO HEAD OFF ONE OF THE ZEKES, WHO IMMEDIATELY STARTED TO CLIMB. VIOLET 1-3 FOLLOWED THE ZEKE AND OPENED FIRE FROM 600 FEET DEAD ASTERN. THE ZEKE EXPLODED IN MID-AIR AND WAS OBSERVED TO CRASH IN THE WATER. THIS ACTION WAS CONFIRMED BY VIOLET 1-4.

VIOLET 2 OBSERVED TWO ZEKES AT 23,000 FEET, ON THE PORT SIDE OF THE BOMBER FORMATION. VIOLET 2 LEADER ATTEMPTED TO INTERCEPT ONE OF THE ZEKES AS IT WAS MAKING A HEAD-ON PASS AT THE BOMBERS, AND WAS ABLE TO GET IN A FIVE SECOND BURST AT 1200 FEET WHEN THE ZEKE SPLIT-3'D FOR THE DECK. AT THIS TIME SOMEONE CALLED IN A FLOAT PLANE ON THE DECK. VIOLET 2 DROVE FOR THE DECK FROM 18,000 FEET BUT COULD NOT LOCATE THE FLOAT PLANE. HOWEVER, A 50 TO 60 FOOT BOAT WAS OBSERVED SOUTH OF ULIPERU ISLAND JUST INSIDE THE REEF, HEADING NORTH. VIOLET 2-1 AND VIOLET 2-2 STRAFED THE BOAT AMIDSHIP AND AS THEY WITHDREW OBSERVED SMOKE ISSUING FROM THE SUPERSTRUCTURE.

VIOLET 11 AND VIOLET 12'S PLANES BECAME INTERCHANGED WHILE WAITING FOR THE BOMBERS TO HIT THE TARGETS. VIOLET 11, NOW COMPOSED OF MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS SNYDER, WILSON AND HEAGNEY FOLLOWED THE BOMBER FORMATION ATTACKING ETEN ISLAND. THEY ATTACKED A ZEKE AT 16,000 FEET WHICH HAD STARTED TO INTERCEPT THE BOMBERS. VIOLET 11-1 GOT ON THE ZEKE'S TAIL AS IT PULLED UP SHARPLY TO THE LEFT. VIOLET 11-2 FIRED TWO SHORT BURSTS FROM 60 DEGREES WHILE VIOLET 11-1 STAYED ON THE ENEMY'S TAIL AND OPENED FIRE AT 600 FEET. VIOLET 11-1 SAW 20 MM SHELLS GO INTO THE ZEKE'S LEFT WING ROOT AND THE PLANE WAS SMOKING AS IT BEGAN TO DIVE. VIOLET 11-3 SAW WING FALL OFF AND ZEKE EXPLODE. VIOLET 11-2, GETTING LOW ON GAS, WAS ORDERED TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT. VIOLET 11-4 BECAME THE LEADER'S WING MAN AND SIGHTED ANOTHER ZEKE COMING OUT OF A LARGE CLOUD SOUTHWEST OF A PARAM ISLAND. VIOLET 11-3 GOT IN ONE LONG BURST FROM DEAD ASTERN BEFORE THE ZEKE DIVED INTO ANOTHER CLOUD, HEADING FOR PARAM ISLAND.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-B

4. CONTINUED:

ISLAND.

VIOLET 12 FOLLOWED VIOLET 11 BUT DID NOT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE ENEMY. VIOLET 12-3, WHILE CIRCLING AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT (NORTH PASS) SAW A ZEKE COME UP UNDER HIS LEFT WING. BOTH PILOTS ATTEMPTED TO GET ON THE OTHER'S TAIL, RESULTING IN A HEAD-ON PASS, DURING WHICH VIOLET 12-3 FIRED TWO SHORT BURSTS FROM 300 FEET. NO RETURN FIRE WAS OBSERVED. VIOLET 12-3 SAW SMOKE COMING FROM THE ZEKE AS IT BROKE OFF.

VIOLET 13 OBSERVED A ZEKE BETWEEN THE NORTH EDGE OF THE REEF AND MOEN ISLAND, AT 15,000 FEET. THE ZEKE WENT INTO A STEEP DIVE AND ENTERED A LARGE CLOUD BEFORE THE FLIGHT COULD ATTACK. VIOLET 13 THEN OBSERVED A SECOND ZEKE AT 10,000 FEET JUST NORTH OF MOEN, HEADED EAST. VIOLET 13-1 AND 13-2 IMMEDIATELY ATTACKED. THE ZEKE TURNED SHARPLY AND HEADED WEST. VIOLET 13-1 AND 13-2 FOLLOWED AND OPENED FIRE. BOTH PILOTS CLAIM HITS ON THE ZEKE, WHICH THEN IMMEDIATELY DISAPPEARED IN THE CLOUD COVER.

VIOLET 3 REMAINED AT 23,000 FEET WHEN THE BOMBERS WENT INTO THEIR AND ORBITED OVER THE WEST EDGE OF THE REEF. THEY OBSERVED A LIGHT COLORED (PROBABLY TAN) SINGLE-ENGINE FLOAT PLANE TAKING OFF JUST OUTSIDE OF THE SOUTHWEST PART OF THE REEF. VIOLET 3 DROPPED DOWN TO ATTACK BUT WAS FORCED TO CIRCLE SO AS NOT TO OVERSHOOT THE TARGET. WHEN THEY EMERGED FROM THE CLOUD COVER, THE FLOAT PLANE WAS NOT IN SIGHT. VIOLET 3 THEN PATROLLED THE WEST REEF.

ALL SIX FLIGHTS REJOINED AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT (NORTH PASS) AT 1135 AND PROCEEDED TO BASE ACCOMPANIED BY THE BOMBER FORMATION.

5. A. GOOD ENROUTE AND RETURN. SCATTERED CUMULUS CLOUDS .3 TO .4. OVER TARGET, .2 CUMULUS.
- B. GOOD, BUT READABILITY SOMETIMES POOR - PROBABLY DUE TO THROAT MIKES.
6. THREE ZEKES DESTROYED (CONFIRMED). ONE ZEKE PROBABLY DESTROYED. ONE ZEKE DAMAGED. ONE 50 TO 60 FOOT BOAT DAMAGED.
7. 4,870 ROUNDS .50 CAL. 694 ROUNDS 20 MM. 18,000 GALLONS GAS.
8. ALL ZEKES WERE PAINTED VERY DARK COLORS. THEY HAD A WHITE STRIPE ON THE VERTICAL STABILIZER AND ROUNDELS ON EACH WING.

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A.P.O. #244INDIVIDUAL PILOT STATEMENTS REGARDING 73D FIRM MISSION #11-B,
BOMBER ESCORT TO TRUK, ARE QUOTED HEREWITH:MAJOR JOHN J. HUSSEY, JR.

MY FLIGHT, WHICH NOW INCLUDED LTS. SNYDER, WILSON AND HEAGNEY, SPOTTED BOGEY BEGINNING AN ATTACK ON BOMBER FORMATION AT APPROXIMATELY 18,000 FEET. WITH MY WINGMAN, I STARTED AFTER HIM AND GOT ON HIS TAIL AS HE PULLED UP SHARPLY TO THE LEFT. MY WINGMAN FIRED ONE OR TWO BURSTS FROM ABOUT 60 DEGREES AS I CLOSED ON ENEMY'S TAIL. BOGEY BEGAN EVASIVE ACTION BUT I MANAGED TO STAY ON HIS TAIL AND COMING WITHIN RANGE, OPENED FIRE AT ABOUT 600 FEET. HITS WERE OBSERVED ON JAP'S LEFT WING ROOT AND AS HE DID A HALF ROLL, A FLASH OF FLAME WAS SEEN. HE SPLIT S'D AND AS I PULLED UP OVER HIM, I SAW SMOKE TRAILING FROM HIM.

JOHN J. HUSSEY, JR.
MAJOR O-429415,
AIR CORPS.

1ST LT. WILLIAM R. WILSON, JR.

BOGEY WAS SEEN ATTACKING BOMBER FORMATION AND CHANDELLED UP TO 24,000 FEET AT 0900 O'CLOCK TO US. MAJOR HUSSEY TURNED TO HIS LEFT AND BEGAN TRAILING HIM FROM DEAD ASTERN CLOSING SLOWLY. AFTER A FEW MANEUVERS OF A LAZY EIGHT VARIETY HE WAS IN APPROXIMATE RANGE AND OPENED FIRE. HITS WERE OBSERVED IN WING AND ZEKE DID A HALF ROLL AND A FLASH OF FLAME, FOLLOWED BY TRAILING SMOKE CAME FROM LEFT WING ROOT. ZEKE THEN SPLIT S'D AND OUR FORMATION PULLED UP OVER THE ZEKE'S LAST POSITION. I LOOKED BACK AND SAW THE ZEKE EXPLODE AT ABOUT 12,000 FEET-14,000 FEET. THE ZEKE DISINTEGRATED IN THE AIR. THE PILOT PARACHUTED OUT OF THE ZEKE WHICH CRASHED IN THE WATER INSIDE THE TRUK LAGOON.

WILLIAM R. WILSON, JR.
1ST LT. O-799700,
AIR CORPS.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

18 NOVEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-31
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-7

1. A. FOURTEEN P-39's (TWO DID NOT TAKE OFF AND ONE RETURNED SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF.
B. FOUR SINGLE-ENGINE FIGHTERS.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ESCORT TWO F-5'S ON PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE MISSION TO TWO JIMA.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS SITTON, MCGAUL*, STOLZ (VIOLET 1).
CAPT TENNANT, LTS REDFIELD*, AMON*, SULLIVAN (VIOLET 2).
CAPT OTTENSTEIN, LTS ERDELE, EUSTACE, RIVAS (VIOLET 3).
LTS KANE*, GARDEN (VIOLET 4).

* 73D FIGHTER SQUADRON PILOTS.

TAKE-OFF: 0302 OVER TARGET: 1010 LANDING: 1357

LTS REDFIELD (VIOLET 2-2) AND AMON (VIOLET 2-3) DID NOT TAKE OFF DUE TO MECHANICAL TROUBLE. LT KANE (VIOLET 4-1) RETURNED TO BASE SHORTLY AFTER TAKE-OFF DUE TO HIS TRIM TAB HANDLE BREAKING OFF. LT. GARDEN (VIOLET 4-2) JOINED VIOLET 3 FLIGHT FOR THE MISSION.

THE THREE FLIGHTS RENDEZVOUSED WITH TWO F-5'S AND FOUR B-24'S OVER MARPI POINT AT 0810. THEY CLIMBED TO 11,000 FEET AND PROCEEDED TO PAJAROS ISLAND, ARRIVING THERE AT 0900. THE FLIGHTS GRADUALLY LET DOWN TO 200 FEET AND ARRIVED AT THE IP (23-55' N 140-40' E) AT 0945. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE TARGET ON A VECTOR OF 35 DEGREES TO, ARRIVING OVER THE TARGET AT 1005.

VIOLET 1 COVERED THE PHOTO RUN OF THE F-5 FLYING ALONG THE WEST SHORE OF TWO JIMA. FLYING AT 200 FEET, ECHELOMED AWAY FROM THE ISLAND, VIOLET 1 ENCOUNTERED MEAGER, INACCURATE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE EMANATING FROM COAST POSITIONS. WHEN THE FLIGHT WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE NORTHWEST OF THE VOLCANIC CRATER, THE LEADER OBSERVED TWO SINGLE-ENGINE ENEMY AIRCRAFT DUE EAST OF AIRFIELD #2, ALTITUDE 2,000 FEET, HEADING IN A SHALLOW DIVE TOWARD THE ISLAND. VIOLET 1 LEADER CALLED IN THE BODIES TO THE OTHER FLIGHTS. AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PHOTO RUN, VIOLET 1 MADE A 180 DEGREE TURN AROUND THE NORTH END OF TWO JIMA AND HEADED FOR THE RENDEZVOUS POINT -- MINAMI ROCK.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION 311-7

4. CONTINUED:

VIOLET 3 COVERED THE PHOTO RUN OF THE F-5 FLYING ALONG THE EAST SHORE OF IWO JIMA. THE FLIGHT CAME IN AT 50 FEET ALTITUDE IN A LINE - ABREAST FORMATION. HALF WAY UP THE ISLAND, THEY TURNED OFF TO THE RIGHT AND HEADED FOR MINAMI ROCK. AS THEY COMPLETED THEIR TURN, FOUR SINGLE-ENGINE ENEMY FIGHTERS WERE OBSERVED HEADING FOR THE FLIGHT AT 2,000 TO 3,000 FEET. ONE OF THE BOGIES DROPPED A PHOSPHOROUS BOMB, WHICH EXPLODED WELL AHEAD AND ABOVE THE FORMATION. A SECOND ENEMY FIGHTER DIVED AND OPENED FIRE ON VIOLET 3-1, BROKE AWAY AND HEADED FOR IWO JIMA. A THIRD ENEMY FIGHTER EXCHANGED PASSES WITH VIOLET 3-1, THEN DIVED FOR THE DECK AND HEADED FOR THE DECK AND HEADED TOWARD IWO JIMA. VIOLET 2-2 OBSERVED THE FOURTH ENEMY FIGHTER AT 2,000 FEET, AND IN A CLIMBING TURN OPENED FIRE AT MAXIMUM RANGE. THE ENEMY IMMEDIATELY BROKE AWAY TO THE LEFT AND RETURED TO THE NORTH. ALL ATTACKS BY THE ENEMY FIGHTERS WERE UNAGGRESSIVE. NO A/A WAS OBSERVED BY VIOLET 3. ONE 2-ENGINE AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED ON #2 AIRFIELD AT IWO JIMA. THE FLIGHT PROCEEDED TO MINAMI ROCK AFTER THE ENEMY INTERCEPTION AND ORBITED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT WHILE THE OTHER FLIGHTS REFORMED.

VIOLET 2 TURNED OFF 3 MILES SOUTH OF IWO JIMA AND, AS THE BALANCE OF THE FORMATION REACHED THE TARGET, STARTED TO CLIMB TO 5,000 FT, WHERE THEY ORBITED UNTIL VIOLET 3 LEFT THE ISLAND. VIOLET 2'S MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE HIGH COVER FOR THE F-5'S. VIOLET 2, AFTER COVERING THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIOLET 3, PROCEEDED TO THE SOUTH TIP OF IWO JIMA TO COVER WITHDRAWAL OF VIOLET 1. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT -- MINAMI ROCK.

ALL THREE FLIGHTS LEFT MINAMI ROCK AT 1020 AND HEADED FOR BASE. THEY ARRIVED AT EAST FIELD, SAIPAN, AFTER FLYING A TOTAL OF 1,516 STATUE MILES.

5. A. 3/10 CUMULUS AT 3,000 FEET OVER TARGET. RETURNING TO BASE, THE FLIGHTS RAN IN TO A FRONT, BASE 600 FEET, TOPS 18,000 FEET, APPROXIMATELY 300 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN.
- B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
6. NONE.
7. 420 ROUNDS CAL. 50. 63 ROUNDS 20 MM. 7,315 GALLONS GAS.
8. NO RADIO CONTACT MADE WITH DUMBOS. NO SHIPPING OBSERVED.

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

17 NOVEMBER 1944
1800 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-20
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-6

1. A. SIX (6) P-47D'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN.
4. LTS. SPENCER, ANDERSON, MILLET, BRYANT (VIOLET 16).
LTS. SHENEMAN, DANNER (JOSEPHINE).

TAKE-OFF: 1405 OVER TARGET: 1515 LANDING: 1630

VIOLET 16 MADE A RUN OVER THE RUNWAY AND TAXI STRIP FROM EAST TO WEST AT 200 FEET AND SINCE NO A/B WAS ENCOUNTERED, NO STRAFING WAS DONE. FLIGHT ALSO MADE A RECONNAISSANCE OF THE NORTHERN END OF PAGAN, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

5. A. ENROUTE - 4/10 CUMULUS FROM 800 TO 5,000 FEET.
OVER-TARGET - 7/10 CUMULUS FROM 800 TO 1500 FEET.
B. NO SKYLARKER
6. NONE.
7. NO AMMUNITION EXPENDED. 1,380 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED. APPROXIMATELY 80 - 90 PERCENT OF TAXI STRIP NORTH OF RUNWAY APPEARS TO BE OPERATIONAL AND IT IS BELIEVED SAFE LANDINGS AND TAKE-OFFS COULD BE MADE FROM IT.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

16 NOVEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-29
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-5

1. A. THREE (3) P-38L'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE AND STRAFING TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY ON PAGAN.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTJ SNEYDER AND F/O WALKER (VIOLET 11).

TAKE-OFF: 1245 OVER TARGET: 1330 LANDING: 1500

VIOLET 11 MADE THREE STRAFING PASSES. THE FIRST WAS FROM E TO W AND FROM 3500 TO 400 FEET HITTING GROUPS OF BUILDINGS SOUTH OF BULGE IN FACE OF CLIFF SOUTHEAST OF RUNWAY. THE SECOND PASS WAS MADE ON THE RUNWAY FROM NW TO SE AND FROM 3000 TO 300 FEET. VIOLET 11-2 AND VIOLET 11-3 OBSERVED MACHINE GUN FIRE COMING FROM POSITIONS APPROXIMATELY 200 YDS NORTH OF CENTRAL PORTION OF RUNWAY. THE THIRD PASS WAS MADE FROM NE TO SW AND FROM 3000 TO 300 FEET STRAFING AREA FROM WHICH MACHINE GUNS HAD BEEN FIRING. NO A/A ON LAST PASS.

5. A. 2/10 CUMULUS FROM 1500 TO 4000 FEET ENROUTE AND OVER TARGET.
B. SKYLARKER NOT CONTACTED.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 900 ROUNDS OF .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION AND 221 ROUNDS OF 20 MM. 570 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NO DEFINITE OBSERVATIONS ON CONDITION OF RUNWAY OR TAXI STRIP.

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

14 NOVEMBER 1944
0930 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 11-27
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 11-4

1. A. TWELVE (12) P-47D'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DESTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS ON PAGAN BY ROCKETS AND STRAFING.
4. LTS. WILSON, PACK, MATTISON, GAMACHE (VIOLET 14).
LTS. GALT, WOODS, SHENEMAN, HORNER (VIOLET 19).
LTS. HARBOUR, SYKES, MILLET, SCHUH (VIOLET 20).

TAKE-OFF: 0455 OVER TARGET: 0600 LANDING: 0710

VIOLET 14 MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS - FIRST RUN FROM NW TO SE AND FROM 6,000 TO 500 FEET HITTING TWO BUILDING GROUPS FURTHEST WEST. SECOND RUN FROM N TO S AND FROM 4,000 TO 500 FEET HITTING ROCKET TARGET AND BUILDING EAST OF IT.

VIOLET 20 WENT IN AFTER VIOLET 14'S FIRST STRAFING RUN FROM NW TO SE, STARTING AT 6,000 FEET AND SALVOING ROCKETS BETWEEN 1,800 AND 2,000 FEET. SIX ROCKETS HIT IN IMMEDIATE AREA OF BUILDINGS DESIGNATED AS ROCKET TARGET, SIX WERE NEAR MISSES, FIVE WERE ABOUT 50 - 75 YARDS LONG, SIX WERE LONG AND IN THE WATER, AND ONE FAILED TO FIRE.

VIOLET 19 MADE ONE STRAFING RUN FROM N TO S AND FROM 3,000 TO 1,000 FEET HITTING ROCKET TARGET AND SINGLE BLDG TO EAST.

5. A. ENROUTE: 7 TO 9/10 CUMULUS FROM 1,500 TO 5,000 FEET.
PAGAN: 9/10 CUMULUS FROM 1,500 TO 2,500 FEET.
B. SKYLARKER CONTACTED VISUALLY AND BY RADIO.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 3,550 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 23 X 4.5 ROCKETS.
3,360 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED. NO EVIDENCE OF REPAIRS ON TAXI STRIP NORTH OF RUNWAY OR RUNWAY ITSELF.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

11 NOVEMBER 1944
1200 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-25
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-3

1. A. FOURTEEN (14) P-47D's.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. LAUNCH ROCKETS AND STRAFE CAVE AND BEACH DEFENSES ON PAGAN.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. HORNER, MILLET, MARTIN, TR (VIOLET 11).
LTS. SMITH, SELFRIDGE, BABCOCK, YAEGER (VIOLET 18).
LTS. SHEPARD, SCHUH, BARNHILL, SYKES (VIOLET 13).
LTS. MATTISON AND BLACKWOOD (JOSEPHINE).

TAKE-OFF: 0720 OVER TARGET: 0830 LANDING: 0950

VIOLET 11 MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS FROM NE TO SW AND FROM 8,000 TO 300 FEET - BOTH CAVE AND BEACH DEFENSES HIT ON FIRST RUN AND BEACH DEFENSES ONLY ON SECOND RUN.

VIOLET 13 EXECUTED TWO STRAFING RUNS WHICH WERE IDENTICAL TO THOSE MADE BY VIOLET 11.

VIOLET 18 MADE ROCKET RUN ON CAVE FROM NE TO SW, STARTING AT 6,000 FEET AND SALVOING ROCKETS AT 1,000 FEET - THREE ROCKETS FAILED TO FIRE AND WHILE NONE OF THE REMAINING TWENTY-ONE WERE OBSERVED TO ENTER THE CAVE, ALL WERE VERY CLOSE TO THE ENTRANCE AND IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE THAT SOME DID ENTER.

5. A. ENROUTE AND AT PAGAN - .3 CUMULUS FROM 1,500 TO 6,000 FEET.
B. NO SKYLARKER.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 5,850 ROUNDS OF .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 24 X 4.5 ROCKETS EXPENDED. 2,880 GALLONS GAS.
8. CAVE DESIGNATED AS TARGET APPEARED TO BE ENTIRELY EMPTY. EASTERN THIRD (1/3) OF RUNWAY SHOWS SIGNS OF RECENT REPAIRS. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED.

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

8 NOVEMBER 1944
0800 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT #11-21
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-2

1. (A) TWELVE (12) P-47D'S.
(B) NONE
2. (A) NONE
(B) NONE
3. STRAFING BUILDING AND STORAGE AREAS ON PAGAN.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. HORNER, MILLET, MARTIN T. (VIOLET 11)
LTS. SMITH, SYKES, BADCOCK, SELFRIDGE. (VIOLET 18)
LTS. SHEPARD, SONUH, BARNHILL, YAEGER. (VIOLET 19)

TAKE-OFF: 0430

LANDING: 0625

ENCOUNTERED A SOLID UNBROKEN FRONT FIFTY MILES SOUTH OF THE
TARGET AND ENTIRE FLIGHT WAS ORDERED TO RETURN TO BASE.

5. (A) NONE. 8/10 CUMULUS ON ROUTE FROM 1,000 TO 3,000 FEET.
(B) GOOD. SKYLARKER NOT CONTACTED.
6. NONE.
7. NO AMMUNITION EXPENDED. 1800 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. #2444 NOVEMBER 1944
1300 LOCAL

SUBJECT: REPORT ON "RISING SUN STRIKE".

TO : S-2 318TH FIGHTER GROUP.

1. RED FLIGHT
(A). NO DEVIATION FROM FLIGHT PLAN.
2. BLACK 1 FLIGHT
(A). ONE (1) PLANE IN FLIGHT DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE DURING CLIMB FOR ALTITUDE AND LEFT FLIGHT AT 0835 - PANGAKED AT 0910.
(B). NO DEVIATION BY REMAINDER OF FLIGHT.
3. BLUE FLIGHT
(A). NO DEVIATION FROM FLIGHT PLAN.
4. BLACK 2 FLIGHT
(A). TAKE-OFF 0800 - GOT ONLY AS FAR AS ANATAHAN - STARTED BACK ON COURSE FOR SAIPAN AT 0840 AT 50'. AT 0900 TEN MILES OFF TANAPAG CLIMBED TO 1,000'.
5. GREEN 1 FLIGHT
(A). ONLY DEVIATION IN ALTITUDE GAIN AT SARIGAN - ONLY ABLE TO REACH 27,000'.
6. GREEN 2 FLIGHT
(A). NO DEVIATION FROM FLIGHT PLAN.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. #2442 NOVEMBER 1944
1000 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #11-2
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #11-1.

1. (A) THIRTEEN (13) P-47D'S
(B) NONE.
2. (A) NONE.
(B) NONE
3. ROCKETS AND STRAFING OF BUILDINGS AND STORAGE AREAS ON PAGAN.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, F/O GAMACHE, LTS. SPILLMAN, WOODS. (VIOLET 11)
LTS. WILSON, PACK, MILLET, SELFIDGE. (VIOLET 14)
LTS. SMITH, DANNER, ANDERSON R., GECI. (VIOLET 18)
MAJOR ROESER. (FROM 318TH GROUP)

TAKE-OFF: 0650

OVER TARGET: 0800

LANDED: 0920

VIOLET 18 (ROCKET FLIGHT) ATTACKED THE GROUP OF BUILDINGS TO THE NORTH OF WOODED AREA NORTH OF WEST END OF RUNWAY - RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, STARTING AT 6,000' AND ROCKETS WERE SALVOED AT 1,500' - TWELVE HITS OBSERVED IN BUILDING AREA, SIX HIT WIDE TO THE EAST, AND SIX LONG BETWEEN TARGET AND WOODED AREA.

VIOLET 11 AND VIOLET 14, IN THAT ORDER, EACH MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS FROM EAST TO WEST AND FROM 4,000' TO 500' - VIOLET 11 STRAFED STORAGE AREAS ON NORTH SIDE OF WOODED AREA NORTH OF RUNWAY AND VIOLET 14 STRAFED STORAGE AREAS ON SOUTH SIDE OF WOODED AREA.

MAJOR ROESER FOLLOWED VIOLET 14.

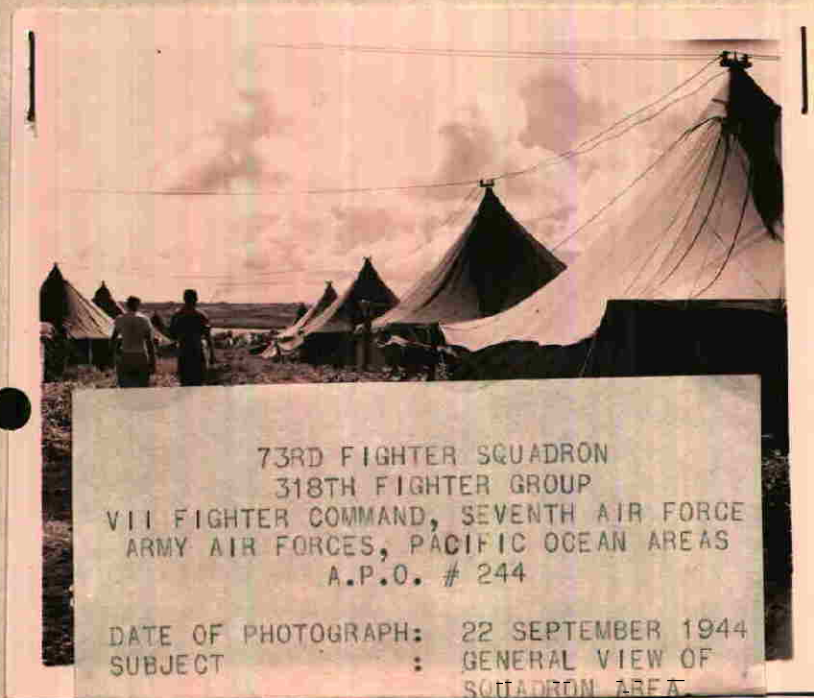
SINGLE BUILDING, FURTHEST NORTH OF DESIGNATED TARGETS, COULD NOT BE LOCATED.

5. (A) ENROUTE: 9/10 CUMULUS FROM 400' TO 6,000' - SCATTERED SHOWERS
OVER TARGET: 5/10 CUMULUS FROM 2,000' TO 3,500'
NEARLY SOLID OVERCAST ON RETURN.
(B) LOUD AND CLEAR - SKYLARKER CONTACTED BY RADIO.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 3940 ROUNDS CAL. .50 AMMUNITION, TWENTY-FOUR (24) ROCKETS. 3240 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.
8. NO A/A ENCOUNTERED - NO EVIDENCE OF REPAIRS ON RUNWAY.

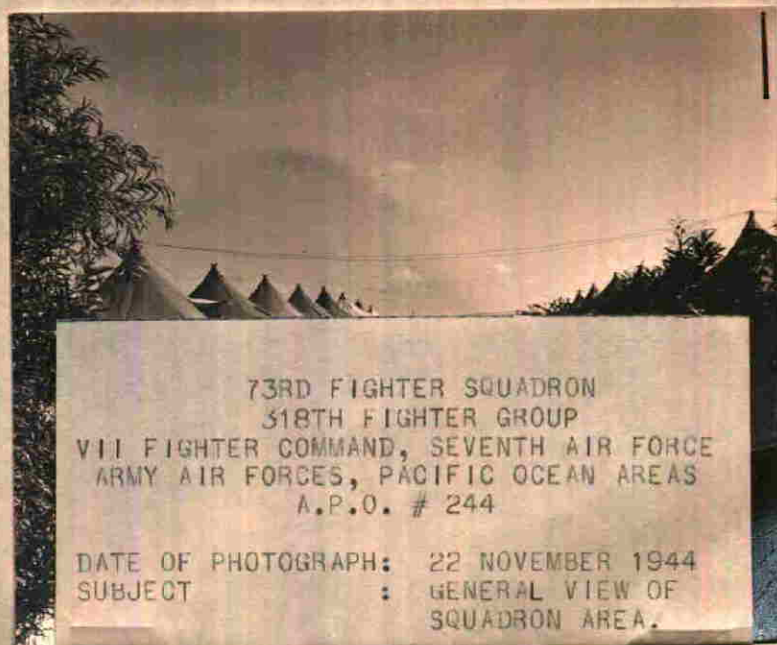
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SQ~AREA



APPENDIX II



MESSHALL



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

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 22 SEPTEMBER 1944
SUBJECT : SQUADRON MESS HALL



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

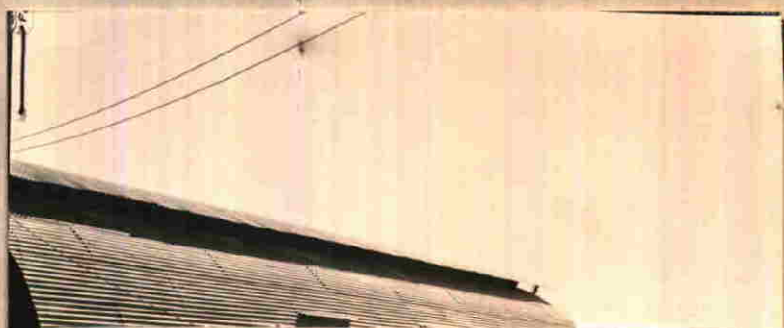
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 22 NOVEMBER 1944
SUBJECT : SQUADRON MESS HALL

ORDERLY-ROOM



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

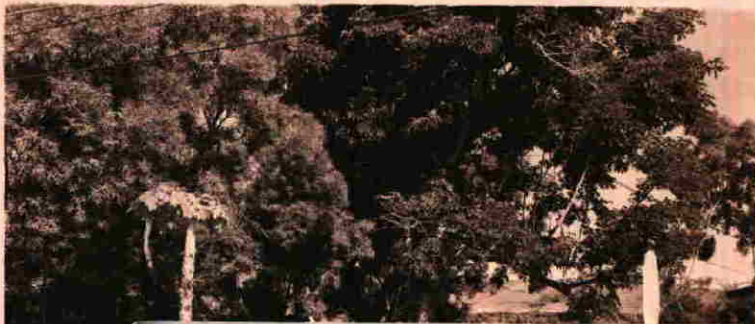
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 22 SEPTEMBER 1944
SUBJECT : SQUADRON ORDERLY
ROOM.



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

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 22 NOVEMBER 1944
SUBJECT : SQUADRON ORDERLY
ROOM.

MISCELLANEOUS



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

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 22 SEPTEMBER 1944
SUBJECT : OFFICERS' CLUB
GARDEN.



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

DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: 7 SEPTEMBER 1944
SUBJECT: LINE AREA