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P.R.C.

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SQ. FT. 73. HT  
Apr - 45

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP  
ARMY AIR FORCES, PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
A.P.O. # 245

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY  
SUPPLEMENT NUMBER THIRTEEN  
1 APRIL 1945 - 30 APRIL 1945

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Historical Division AAFPOA

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP  
ARMY AIR FORCES, PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS  
A.P.O. # 245

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY  
SUPPLEMENT NUMBER THIRTEEN  
1 APRIL 1945 - 30 APRIL 1945

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

Ground Echelon departed Kagman Point Field, Saipan, 6 April 1945  
and arrived at Ie Shima, Okinawa Gunto, Ryukus, 30 April 1945.

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

Negative.

3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

See Appendix # 2.

4. ORGANIZATION.

Negative.

5. STRENGTH, PERSONNEL.

Seventy (70) officers.  
Two Hundred and forty five (245) enlisted men.

6. STRENGTH, AIRPLANES.

1 April - Fourteen (14) P-47D-11-RE  
Five (5) P-47D-11-RA  
Two (2) P-47D-20-RA  
Two (2) P-47N-2

30 April - Thirty-six (36) P-47N-2

7. LOSSES, AIRPLANES.

All twenty-one (21) P-47D's were transferred to the Guam Air Depot,  
APO # 246.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF

NARRATIVE

During the first five days of April, loading of the S.S.S. Hall Young and the U.S.S. Kennore was completed, tents were struck, the squadron area at Kagman Point Field was well "policed up", and the 73rd (less air echelon) was ready to move again.

On April 5th, mess personnel boarded the Kennore and Lt. BIRD, acting squadron TQM officer, and a detail of nine enlisted men boarded the Hall Young. On the following day, the remainder of the ground echelon (see Appendix #1) left Kagman Point Field at 1500 in a fifteen truck convoy and boarded the Kennore a few minutes later. The balance of that day was spent in stowing away personal gear and getting settled for what proved to be a long stay aboard ship. At 0700 on the following day (7 April) the ships moved out of Tanapag Harbor in a small convoy. Guam was passed during the first day and on the morning of 9 April the little convoy dropped anchor in the lagoon at Ulithi. Twelve days were spent in this anchorage before orders to proceed were received. It soon became apparent that this long stop-over was a result of slow progress in ground fighting on Okinawa after early initial successes. It had been announced subsequent to sailing that our destination would be the Okinawa Gunto, although the exact location of the squadron's new home could not be given for the very good reason that no one knew, or was to know, definitely, as it turned out until the day of disembarking. Despite this uncertainty, several squadron meetings were held aboard ship (principally during the stay at Ulithi) and all available pertinent information was presented to all personnel with particular reference to our position in the tactical air force of the 10th Army. Other talks were given to all squadrons on Chemical Warfare by Lt. WALLACE, 73rd

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

Ordnance and C.W. Officer, and a Booby Trap lecture by the group Ordnance officer. A break in the monotony of life aboard ship came on the 17th of April when all personnel made a trip ashore in landing craft for a visit to the navy's recreation center at Mog Mog, one of the numerous islets in the Ulithi group. Even though most of the time was consumed in the trip, it proved to be a welcome diversion. Beer and coco cola were available and swimming for those who wanted exercise. Most of the men agreed that Mog Mog looked more like the Hollywood version of a Pacific island than anything they had seen previously. On the evening of the 20th, the convoy, considerably augmented in numbers by now, pulled out of Ulithi and took a course for Okinawa.

In the meantime, the air echelon back at Kobler Field, Saipan proceeded with business of replacing the old P-47D's with the new P-47N's. The old planes were ferried to Guam and twenty-two (22) "N's" returned from the air depot there. The other fourteen (14) "N's" assigned to the 73rd in April were flown from Oahu. These ferrying jobs and "check-out" flights consumed the better part of April, the last "N" being delivered on the 23rd. Flying time logged for the month, most of which was ferrying, amounted to 980:15. However, 270:45 was combat time, flown during two fighter sweeps over Truk. These missions, providing good trials for the new planes, were flown on the 28th and 30th and on the latter date, Lt. HARBOUR added to the "Barflies" list of "kills" by shooting down an Emily in the Truk lagoon.

The ground echelon had by this time reached Okinawa Gunto. Early on the morning of the 26th the convoy rounded the southwest tip of Okinawa Shima, passed between Okinawa and the Keramas, proceeded northeast, and halted temporarily at an anchorage west and north of Yontan Airfield. About noon, a

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## SECRET

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

portion of the convoy, including the Kenmore and the Hall Young, moved on up the west coast of Okinawa to Ie Shima. Here another brief stop was made before returning to Nago Wan. Two nights, the 26th and 27th, were spent in this bay and on the 28th the ships moved back to the anchorage off Yontan. Two more nights aboard ship and finally on the morning of the 30th, it was learned that Ie Shima was to be the squadron's destination. The entire trip had been made without serious interference from the enemy, though a Jap sub did play tag with the convoy between Ulithi and Okinawa, but on the night of the 29th bad luck caught up with the Hall Young which had moved back to the Nago Wan anchorage. On that night, just before unloading was to begin, a Jap Kamikaze pilot (suicide) put on his act and crashed into the ship. Miraculously, there were few casualties and they were confined to ship's company (no fatalities). Fires started by the suicide attack were brought under control and loss or damage to the group's equipment was relatively light.

After a short trip back up the northwest coast of Okinawa, the Kenmore again anchored at Ie and disembarking of personnel was well under way before noon of the 30th. As the men reached the beach via landing craft, they were loaded into trucks and taken to a previously selected quarters area, located about a mile southeast of the old Jap airfield which was to be the squadron's new operating base. The squadron's arrival and the "securing" of the island so nearly coincided that the area selected was far from ready for occupancy. Personnel of all squadrons and group headquarters were confined in an area so small that there was scarcely room to sit down until marine "sappers" had removed numerous and sundry land mines. This was accomplished by mid-

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

afternoon which gave the men barely enough time to dig in and set up pup tents. The presence of a considerable number of dead Japs in exceedingly shallow graves did nothing to improve the general aspect of the situation.

The ground echelon had arrived and were ready to start a new month by unloading supplies and equipment, getting quarters and line areas built up, and generally paving the way for the air echelon.

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CHRONOLOGY FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL

- 1 April: 2nd Lt. JOE D. WOODS from duty to DS, Air Depot, APO 953.  
Sgt ARMANDO A. MIGNONE and Sgt JOHN J. POLLOCK from sick, hosp, 176 Sta Hosp, APO 244 to evacuated to Gen Hosp 15 B.P.O. APO 456 per evacuation Orders, Hq., 176th Sta Hosp, APO 244.
- 5 April: Mess detail boards the U.S.S. Kennore and the unloading and gun crew detail boards the S.S.S. Hall Young.  
Cpl EDWARD Y. EMBREE transferred in grade to Hq. and Hq. Sq., 7th Air Force per VCOG.
- 6 April: Ground Echelon leaves Hagman Point Field, Saipan at 1500 in 15 truck convoy and boards the U.S.S. Kennore shortly thereafter.  
2nd Lts. DANIEL R. CLARKE and FREDERICK B. LEWIS, JR., from duty to DS w/Det Hq., 318th Fighter Group at APO 244 per VCOG.  
2nd Lt. JOHN E. DANNER from duty to DS w/Det Hq., 318th Fighter Group at APO 244 per VCOG.
- 7 April: Convoy pulled out of Tanapag Harbor at 0700. Sea Calm.
- 9 April: Convoy dropped anchor in Ulithi Lagoon at 0700.
- 17 April: Liberty party left ship at 1120 and returned about 1700. Trip was made to Mog Mog -- a two hour ride each way. There was beer, coke and swimming.
- 20 April: Pfc JAMES H. EBELING from duty to sick Hosp U.S.S. Bountiful.  
In afternoon, convoy pulled out of Ulithi -- at 1730.
- 23 April: Invasion currency issued to all troops aboard the Kennore.
- 26 April: Aboard the U.S.S. Kennore, ship dropped anchor off Okinawa Shima. Total distance traveled 1800 miles. Arrived at 1545.  
Our first air raid alert was had at night.
- 28 April: Eight (8) hour air raid starting at 1900 -- the longest to date.
- 29 April: The S.S.S. Hall Young was hit by a Kamikaze (suicide) pilot while being anchored off Ie Shima preparatory to being unloaded. Attack occurred at night.  
T/Sgt ALLEN RUGGER fr duty to sick, hosp U.S.S. Samaritan.
- 30 April: Ship weighed anchor off Okinawa Shima and moved to Ie Shima where Squadron debarked at 1100. Squadron Bivouaced in assigned squadron area. One detail remained at the docks to start unloading. Two air raids at night.

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

APPENDIX # 1

PASSENGER LIST USS KENMORE

73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF

Capt. GERAID R. GRAEBER  
Capt. ALAN B. SINAUER  
1st Lt. JOHN W. AYLER  
JOHN N. BLAIR  
WILLIAM S. HARRIS  
GEORGE F. HOLLEY  
CHARLES H. WALLACE  
2nd Lt. JAMES R. CLARK  
CHARLES F. CORCORAN  
FREDERICK S. JOHNSON  
JAMES A. SINCLAIR  
THEODORE J. SYKES  
ELLIS A. WALLENBERG  
F/O JOHN W. COOK  
JOSEPH D. MENZA  
HOWARD D. MERRICK  
DAVID G. WALKER  
CWO ARTHUR N. ALDRIDGE

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

**PASSENGER LIST USS KENMORE****73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF**

1. M Sgt Eric E Gullien	42. S Sgt Joseph W Mitchell Jr
2. M Sgt Donald L McCormick	43. S Sgt Walter S Mokryzcki
3. T Sgt George E Atkins	44. S Sgt Jacob Nasrallah
4. T Sgt Robert J Hafris	45. S Sgt George T Naylor
5. T Sgt Clyde W Johnson	46. S Sgt Kenneth C Olson
6. T Sgt Lewis Katz	47. S Sgt Aaron S Rabalais
7. T Sgt Ural L McCaula Jr	48. S Sgt Charles H Pfeifer
8. T Sgt Marvin K Needham	49. S Sgt Lloyd G Rebsamen
9. T Sgt Ben A Northington	50. S Sgt Dexter M Short
10. T Sgt Roger H Olds	51. S Sgt Robert H Smith
11. T Sgt Donald E Overcash	52. S Sgt Charles E. Sumner
12. T Sgt Clyde R Polen	53. S Sgt Lee O Vaillencourt
13. T Sgt Allen Rugger	54. S Sgt Michael J Velpe
14. T Sgt Fleyd P Springer	55. S Sgt Donald E Williams
15. T Sgt Jules A Stelly Jr	56. S Sgt Rudolph Woodshank
16. S Sgt Frank L Adams	57. S Sgt Kenneth M Woodside
17. S Sgt John W Barosky	58. Sgt William F Alexander
18. S Sgt John C Beall*	59. Sgt Alex J Allen
19. S Sgt Clarence W Bowman	60. Sgt Albert Barnett
20. S Sgt Gale A Bullard	61. Sgt Robert J Bartell
21. S Sgt Nicholas Galia	62. Sgt Andrew J Bednar
22. S Sgt Joseph Chiera	63. Sgt Jack Bogdan
23. S Sgt J E Chisholm*	64. Sgt Chester L Burke
24. S Sgt Arthur L Delvaux	65. Sgt Joseph Elkins
25. S Sgt Russel L Dickman	66. Sgt Jack J Fish
26. S Sgt Leonard J Duchan	67. Sgt William L Gatten
27. S Sgt Raie Eastwood†	68. Sgt Richard L Hamlyn
28. S Sgt Charles P Fawcett	69. Sgt Sidney B. Hart
29. S Sgt Raymond W Green	70. Sgt John J. Healy
30. S Sgt Jehah Kleinberg	71. Sgt Gerardo F Ieri
31. S Sgt Frank Klinger*	72. Sgt Kenneth A Jarvis
32. S Sgt John J Krauss	73. Sgt Lynn R Kern
33. S Sgt Frank W Kush	74. Sgt John P Lende
34. S Sgt Fred R Langford	75. Sgt Edward A Martin
35. S Sgt LeRoy G Larsen	76. Sgt Victor T Mason
36. S Sgt Phillip W Lees	77. Sgt William J McBride
37. S Sgt Allen A Lucas	78. Sgt Nathan G Nollner
38. S Sgt Orrin A Madsen	79. Sgt Irving A Novick
39. S Sgt Lloyd E Mangels*	80. Sgt Edward F O'Brien
40. S Sgt Edward C Mars	81. Sgt Thaddeus J O'Conner
41. S Sgt Charles D Melton	82. Sgt Jackson L Ollis

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(Passenger List, USS Kennmore, 73rd Pircn, Cont'd)

83. Sgt Theodore L Peterson	131. Cpl Max Sandoval
84. Sgt Paxton E Phares	132. Cpl Daniel Scerbe
85. Sgt Laben Pesner	133. Cpl Herman F Simonides
86. Sgt Gene E Prickett	134. Cpl William J Parrott
87. Sgt Henry E Strom	135. Cpl Maxwell B Smith
88. Sgt Burnis E Sylvester	136. Cpl Louis P Sobush
89. Sgt Thomas V Tattle	137. Cpl Edward J Solensky
90. Sgt Stanley Vinosky	138. Cpl William W Tucker
91. Sgt J D Wilburn	139. Cpl Thomas J Turner
92. Cpl Richard Aitken	140. Pfc Elwood L Albright
93. Cpl Ralph A Asher	141. Pfc Lester T Campbell
94. Cpl Eugene W Bunyan	142. Pfc John T Chesney
95. Cpl Neil G Campbell	143. Pfc Richard D Coates
96. Cpl Lewis Cohen	144. Pfc James C Cooper
97. Cpl James C Comley	145. Pfc Ralph F Crecco
98. Cpl Vincent R Cordare	146. Pfc Marland W Cremeens
99. Cpl Edward C Carliss	147. Pfc John S Deneen
100. Cpl William B Cunningham	148. Pfc James H Ebeling
101. Cpl Louis De Cuitis	149. Pfc Elmo B Ellis
102. Cpl Francis J Donahue	150. Pfc William F Epstein
103. Cpl Robert A Detz	151. Pfc James M Flanagan
104. Cpl Richard M. Dubick	152. Pfc Jack R Haizlip
105. Cpl Edward Y Embree	153. Pfc Lawrence D Hughes
106. Cpl Stephen Ewanie	154. Pfc Albert James
107. Cpl Victor C Faulstick	155. Pfc Ernest E Johnson
108. Cpl Arthur R. Felgenhauer	156. Pfc Gaillard L Joyner
109. Cpl Frederick R Fenton	157. Pfc Robert D Justice
110. Cpl Dennis Fraley	158. Pfc Alex J Kurkul
111. Cpl Welden Hayward	159. Pfc Thomas E Madel
112. Cpl James Houdersheldt	160. Pfc Paul W McHenry
113. Cpl Richard J Hoyt	161. Pfc Milford F Merrel
114. Cpl Owen D Hunt	162. Pfc Mam Nesvet
115. Cpl Dewey Isaacs	163. Pfc William E November
116. Cpl Bruce E Kenney Jr	164. Pfc Norman L Nunnermacker
117. Cpl John J Krall	165. Pfc Henry B Phelps
118. Cpl Alexander E Kulinski	166. Pfc Harry Phillips Jr
119. Cpl John W Lavin	167. Pfc William J Rasette
120. Cpl Cyril F Lee	168. Pfc Howard W Rodgers
121. Cpl Roy J Lenz	169. Pfc Howard B Smith
122. Charles E Lewis	170. Pfc Harold K Thompson
123. Cpl Edward A McCauley	171. Pfc Kenneth N Van Horn
124. Cpl Francis H McCleskey	172. Pfc Donald B Watson
125. Cpl Augustine J Monahan	173. Pfc Walter G Zamminer
126. Cpl Armand F Morissette	174. Pvt George P LaValley
127. Cpl Alan J Nevins	175. Pvt Gordon E Nicholson
128. Cpl Leonard P Owens	176. Pvt Vincent H Ursini
129. Cpl Edward F Parrish	
130. Cpl Vernon A Ritter	

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

PASSENGER LIST FOR S. HALL YOUNG

EXTRACT

\* \* \* \* \*  
73rd Fighter Squadron, AAF

OFFICER

1st Lt. JAMES B BIRD

ENLISTED MEN

Sgt Max R Ritchie  
Cpl Joseph F Gullinan  
Cpl George E Fischer  
Cpl Sidney W Harwood  
Cpl George A Lawrence

Cpl Anthony Marzilli  
Cpl William Steinberg  
Pfc Victor C Arensdorf  
Pfc John A E Shepard

\* \* \* \* \*  
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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF.  
A.P.O. # 245

Appendix # 2

The following officers were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross per General Orders No. 52, Hq., Seventh Air Force, dated 28 April 1945. The presentation was made by Brigadier General WILLIAM J. FLOOD, in a ceremony at Kobler Field, Saipan, on the 27 April 1945:

Major JOHN J. HUSSEY, JR.

1st Lt ALFORD J. BABCOCK

1st Lt EARL H. HARBOUR

1st Lt ROBERT H. RESER

1st Lt ROBERT L. SHEPARD

1st Lt JOHN M. STEVENS

2nd Lt EUBANKS BARNHILL

2nd Lt JOSEPH J. DE VONA

2nd Lt. KEITH W. MATTISON

2nd Lt ROBERT G. O'HARA



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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFAPPENDIX # 3

APRIL DATE	PILOT	<u>TRANSFER OF P-47'S TO &amp; FROM SQUADRON</u>				REMARKS
		P-47D TO GUAM	P-47N FROM OAHU	P-47N FROM GUAM	P-47N TO GUAM	
1	NELSON	1		1		
2	HARBOUR	1				
4	HARBOUR			1		
5	HARBOUR	1		1		
6	SHEPARD		1			In 11 plane flight. 4-333rd, 3-19th.
	BRYANT		1			
	CECI		1			
	GAMACHE		1			
7	SPIVEY			1		
	OTHER	6				
8	BABCOCK	1				
	BESCHE	1				
9	HARBOUR			1		
10	BYERS	1		1		
	HARBOUR	1				
11	BABCOCK			1		
	HARBOUR			1		
	OTHER	8				Final P-47D's to Guam
15	MCCOWN		1			
	KANE		1			
	HORNER		1			
	TR. MARTIN		1			
	MATTISON		1			
	MILLER		1			
	REDFIELD		1			
	SELFRIEDGE		1			
	WOODS		1			
	MAJOR ROESSER		1			
16	HARBOUR				1	
	OTHER			4	1	
17	OTHER			5		
23	BARNHILL			1		Last P-47N from Guam Pancaked at Guam because of mechanical damage sustained at Truk.
28	YAEGER				1	
TOTALS		21	14	22	2	

Twenty-one (21) P-47D's were transferred to Guam Air Depot, Aps # 246.

Fourteen (14) P-47N's from Oahu

Twenty-two (22) P-47N's from Guam

36 P-47N's came into squadron during month

2 P-47N's transferred out of squadron during month

34 P-47N's -- increase for month.

2 P-47N's -- Came into squadron during March.

36 P-47N's on hand at end of April

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CONFIDENTIAL73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFRESUME OF MONTH'S MISSIONSAPPENDIX # 24TARGET -- TRUK\*

<u>TYPE OF MISSION</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>ABORTIVES</u>
Fighter Sweep	2	40	2

Total planes dispatched: 42Abortives : 2Total Completion of Mission: 40

\* As missions to Truk are for longer than 3-1/2 hours duration, they are credited as two (2) sorties each. Therefore, the total accredited sorties for the month is: 80

EXPENDITURES FOR THE MONTH

.50 Caliber ammunition . . . . . 22,080 rounds.

Rockets, 5 inch, instantaneous fused . . . . . 9

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HEADQUARTERS  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF  
A.P.O. # 245

1 June 1945.

The following report of enemy aircraft destroyed is submitted for consideration by the Claims Board:

1. While on a Fighter Swoop against Truk an EMILY was sighted and destroyed.
2. The kill was made by the following pilot:

<u>PILOT</u>	<u>SQUADRON</u>	<u>NO. &amp; TYPE A/C DESTROYED</u>
1st Lt. EARL H. HARBOUR O-806672	73rd	1 EMILY

3. Date of Mission: 30 April 1945.  
Squadron Mission Number: 73rd Ftr Sqdn No. 4-2  
Group Mission Number: 4-3

4. For narrative account, see copies of Mission Report and Statements attached.

*Fredrick H. Deamant*  
FREDERICK H. DEAMANT,  
Major, Air Corps,  
S - 2.

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FINAL ACTION OF CLAIMS BOARD

Credit Lt. EARL H. HARBOUR with the destruction of one (1) EMILY.

1 June 1945  
(Date)

*L. M. Sanders*  
L. M. SANDERS  
Colonel, Air Corps,  
President, Claims Board,  
318th Fighter Group, AAF.

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318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF  
A. P. O. #245

30 April 1945

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT # 4-2 (Saipan)  
GROUP MISSION REPORT # 4-3

1. A. Twenty (20) P-47N's.  
B. One (1) EMILY
2. A. None  
B. One (1) EMILY
3. Fighter Sweep against Truk.
4. Maj. McCOWN, Lts. WOODS, MATTISON, BESCHE.\*  
Maj. RASMUSSEN, Lts. BENNETT, MILLER, T. R. MARTIN.  
Capt. KLINE, F/O GAMACHE, Lts. MILLET, REDFIELD.  
Lts. HARBOUR, HORNER, RESER, SELFRIDGE.  
Capt. H. W. MARTIN, Lts. BRYANT, SHEPARD, ANDERSON.

\* Lt. BESCHE replaced Lt. CECI who returned early due to engine trouble.

Takeoff: 0800 - Over Target: 1100 - Landed: 1540

Twenty P-47N's took off from Kobler Field, Saipan, at 0800. Rocket attack was made on Dublon Seaplane Base, and external tanks were dropped near to the base. The gas tanks were observed to be burned out. Hit Eten Island with Rockets with unobserved results. A small boat off Otta Island was strafed and sunk. An eighty foot schooner was left burning off southwest point of Uman. Thirty foot motor launch was probably destroyed off the northwest point of Uman. A canoe with three persons in it was sunk off Tol. No effective results of strafing buildings and barges south along Moen or RDX radio station on east point of Moen, thirty foot boat off Tol, airfield and barracks area on Param or Faleu islands or on boat off Fefan were observed.

Lt. HARBOUR and flight entered Truk lagoon at 1200 feet on a 180 degree course and spotted a bogey at 2 o'clock low, approximately 10 miles. The bogey was chased southeast for approximately 20 miles before being caught. The bogey was identified as an EMILY. Lt. HARBOUR made a slight deflection shot and then got on its tail. Firing was concentrated into the left inboard engine, wing root and left side of fuselage. Pieces were observed to be flying off and a fire started in the engine. The EMILY swerved out of control and crashed into the water.

Heavy flak from Uman was moderate and accurate. A/W fire was moderate and inaccurate from Uman, Dublon, Moen and Faleu. Gun camera photos were taken. Usual luggers and barges were observed in the lagoon. All planes returned safely.

5. A. Cloudy  
B. Loud and clear.
6. See narrative
7. 16,320 rounds .50 cal. 9 x 5" rockets. 15,029 gallons gas.
8. None



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318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF  
A. P. O. #245

INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS

(Group Mission Report # 4-3, 30 April 1945, SAIPAN)

1ST LT. EARL HAMPTON HARBOUR:

My flight entered the Truk Lagoon at 1200 feet on a 180 degree course and spotted a bogey at 2 o'clock low, approximately 10 miles. Bogey was chased southeast for approximately 20 miles before catching him. I identified bogey as an EMILY and made a slight deflection shot, falling back directly behind the plane. My fire was concentrated into the left inboard engine, wing root and left side of fuselage. I observed several pieces falling off and a fire was started in the engine. As I broke off to the right, I saw one man get out of the right side of the cockpit and fall into the propellor. Another fell free from the midsection. The EMILY which swerved out of control, started to climb, stalled and dove into the water. The plane burned in the water and no survivors were seen.

/s/ Earl H. Harbour  
/t/ EARL H. HARBOUR,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
O-806672

1ST LT. ROBERT H. RESER:

Lt. HARBOUR's flight was 1200 feet on a heading of about 180 degrees. The bogey was spotted about 10 miles away at approximately 2 o'clock and low from our position.

Lt. HARBOUR closed in from the stern and identified bogey as an EMILY. The EMILY started a slight turn to the left and Lt. HARBOUR opened fire. I observed many hits on the left side of the cockpit of the EMILY. The left inboard engine caught fire and pieces started falling from the left wing. After a very long burst Lt. HARBOUR broke off his attack. The EMILY went into a steep climb and her whole left wing started flaming. The EMILY was evidently out of control because she stalled out at about 200 feet, went into a shallow dive and hit the water still diving. There was a huge explosion and a very large fire. When last seen nothing remained except a large gasoline fire on the water. No survivors were observed.

/s/ Robert H. Reser  
/t/ ROBERT H. RESER,  
1st Lt., Air Corps,  
O-754667

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF  
A.P.O. #245

29 APRIL 1945

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION NO. 4-1  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION NO. 4-2

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47N'S. TWO (2) B-29'S FROM 73RD WING FOR NAVIGATION.  
B. NONE ENCOUNTERED. ONE (1) TWIN FLOAT PLANE POSSIBLY SEEN SOUTH EAST OF MOEN ISLAND.
2. A. ONE (1) P-47N DAMAGED, EXTENT UNKNOWN, CAUSE UNKNOWN, LANDED AT GUAM. (LT. YAEGER)  
B. NONE.
3. FIGHTER SWEEP OF AIRFIELDS AT PARAM AND MOEN ISLANDS.

MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. WEBSTER, YAEGER, F/O HANDLY.  
CAPTAIN NELSON, LTS. SCHUH, BARNHILL, PACK.  
LTS. GALT, TITUS, O'HARA, CAMPBELL.  
LTS. STEVENS, BLACKWOOD, DE VONA, BABCOCK.\*  
LTS. BYERS, AYLER, SPIVEY, HEAGNEY.

\*LT. BABCOCK REPLACED LT. BESCHE WHO RETURNED EARLY,  
PANCAKING AT 0900 DUE TO MECHANICAL TROUBLE.)

TAKE OFF: 0804

LANDING: 1431

SQUADRON TOOK OFF FROM SAIPAN AT 0814 AND WENT TO AGUIJAN ISLAND WHERE THEY RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE TWO NAVIGATIONAL B-29'S AT 0830 AT 5,000 FEET. A HEADING OF 142 DEGREES WAS GIVEN BY B-29'S AND THE SQUADRON CLIMBED TO 12000 FEET. THE P-47N'S AND THE B-29'S ARRIVED AT NORTH PASSAGE AT 1115 WHERE THE FIGHTERS LEFT THE MOTHER PLANES WHO ORBITED IN THAT AREA. THE WHOLE SQUADRON MADE A SWEEP OF THE TRUK LAGOON WHERE NO ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE AIRBORNE. MAJOR HUSSEY AND HIS THREE FLIGHTS THEN MADE A STRAFING ATTACK ON PARAM ISLAND WHILE CAPTAIN NELSON AND HIS TWO FLIGHTS MAINTAINED COVER. MAJOR HUSSEY'S FLIGHTS OBSERVED NO OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT ON PARAM AIRDROME. THEY ATTACKED A/W BATTERIES AND SMALL SHIPPING MOORED TO A PIER OFF PARAM AIRDROME. MAJOR HUSSEY'S PLANE DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE AND HIS NUMBER THREE MAN'S PLANE (LT. YAEGER) WAS DAMAGED. AS A RESULT MAJOR HUSSEY LED HIS FLIGHT TO RENDEZVOUS WITH B-29'S AT NORTH PASSAGE FROM WHERE THEY SET COURSE TO GUAM WITH ONE B-29 SO AS TO SAFELY ESCORT LT. YAEGER TO THE NEAREST AIRDROME. THE TWO REMAINING HUSSEY FLIGHTS MAINTAINED COVER FOR CAPTAIN NELSON AND HIS TWO FLIGHTS AS THEY STRAFED MOEN AIRDROM NO. 1. NO OPERATIONAL ENEMY AIRCRAFT WERE SIGHTED BY NELSON'S FLIGHTS ON MOEN AIRDROME. HOWEVER ONE PILOT OF CAPTAIN NELSON'S FLIGHTS CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN ONE TWIN FLOAT ENEMY AIRCRAFT SOUTHEAST OF PARAM ISLAND WHILE MAINTAINING COVER FOR MAJOR HUSSEY AT A HEIGHT OF 8000 FEET. NO ONE COULD CONFIRM THIS OBSERVATION.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

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

73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION NO. 4-1, CONTINUED.

## 4. (CONT'D)

CAPTAIN NELSON'S FLIGHTS STRAFED SHIPPING OFF MOEN AIRDROME AS WELL AS CONSTRUCTION FACILITIES OF THE AIRDROME. ALL FLIGHTS THEN ASSEMBLED AND RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE B-29 OVER NORTH PASSAGE AT TEN THOUSAND FEET AT 1200 HOURS. A HEADING OF 315 DEGREES WAS SET FOR SAIPAN. THE SAIPAN BEAM WAS PICKED UP 100 MILES OUT AND THE SQUADRON PANGAKED FROM 1431 TO 1445. HEAVY FLAK WAS ENCOUNTERED FROM ETEN, DUBLON AND TIFEN ISLANDS. IT WAS MODERATE AND IN-ACCURATE OF THE TRACKING TYPE. A/W WERE ENCOUNTERED ON PAKAM AND MOEN ISLANDS BUT NO HITS WERE MADE. NO OBSERVATIONS AS TO THEIR ACCURACY CAN BE MADE BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF TRACERS. IT IS FELT THAT IN GENERAL THE TRUK LAGOON IS WELL DEFENDED BY A/W AND HEAVY A/A AND TO DISREGARD THIS FACTOR WOULD BE FATAL FOR FIGHTER RANK'S AIRCRAFT.

5. A. WEATHER AS BRIEFED: FOM TO FIVE TENTHS CUMULUS, BASES TWO THOUSAND FEET. VISIBILITY FIFTEEN TO TWENTY MILES LOWERING TO TWO MILES IN RAIN SHOWERS IN VICINITY OF 11 DEGREES NORTH 149 DEGREES EAST. VISIBILITY AT FLIGHT ALTITUDE UNRESTRICTED. FREEZING LEVEL AT SIXTEEN THOUSAND FEET. INTERTROPICAL FRONT LOCATED FROM 11 DEGREES NORTH 149 DEGREES EAST TO 50 MILES NORTH OF TARGET.
- B. AS ENCOUNTERED: AS BRIEFED EXCEPT TOPS OF CLOUDS OVER INTERTROPICAL FRONT AROSE TO 13,000 FEET.

COMMUNICATIONS IN GENERAL WERE GOOD.

6. FOUR (4) LUGGERS DAMAGED, ONE (1) GAS TRUCK DESTROYED, A/W POSITIONS DAMAGED.
7. 14,365 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED. 5,760 ROUNDS OF CALIBER .50 AMMUNITION EXPENDED.
8. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT TO MAKE A MISSION OF THIS TYPE WORTHWHILE PARTICULARLY UNDER THE PRESENT STATUS OF THE GROUP IT WOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL TO HAVE SPECIFIC TARGETS ASSIGNED TO BE ATTACKED AND THAT CONCRETE INFORMATION CONCERNING THESE TARGETS BE AVAILABLE TO THE GROUP. COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE SEVENTH BOMCOM AND THE 73RD BOMB WING CONTRIBUTED TO THE COMPLETION OF THE MISSION.

HUSSEY

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

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