

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

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73RD 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 SIX
1 SEPTEMBER 1944 -- 30 SEPTEMBER 1944

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

NEGATIVE.

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

END LT. R.L. GORMIER WOUNDED IN LANDING ACCIDENT ON RETURN FROM PAGAN STRIKE ON 26 SEPTEMBER 1944.

3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS.

SEE APPENDIX #1.

4. ORGANIZATION.

NEGATIVE.

5. STRENGTH, PERSONNEL.

SIXTY-TWO (62) OFFICERS.
TWO HUNDRED AND FORTY -THREE (243) ENLISTED MEN.

6. STRENGTH, AIRPLANES.

1 SEPTEMBER 1944 -- TWENTY (20) P-47D-11-RE AND SEVEN (7) P-47D-11-RA.
30 SEPTEMBER 1944 -- TWENTY (20) P-47D-11-RE AND SEVEN (7) P-47D-11-RA.

7. LOSSES, AIRPLANES.

ONE (1) P-47D-11-RE crashed on take-off 7 September 1944.
ONE (1) P-47D-11-RA crashed on landing 26 September 1944.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFNARRATIVE

September, the third full month of the Squadron's occupation of Saipan, was noted principally for the further curtailment of combat missions with only seven (7) strikes - one hundred and seventeen (117) sorties against Pagan making a total combat time of 237:15. These missions consisted of attacks on enemy installations with bombs, rockets and by strafing. Other hours flown during the month, included C.A.P., Air Defense exercises, alerts and training missions totaling 985:15. (For complete breakdown see appendix #3).

Although flying time has fallen off, the Squadron as a whole has been busy with various projects being completed and new ones started during September. The Engineering section, working with the cooperation of Armament and Ordnance, has developed a first class maintenance center. This maintenance area has been surfaced with coral type rock and a sheet metal shop, armament shop, and Quonset hut (occupied by Tech Supply and Personal Equipment sections) have been erected. With these improved facilities, the sections involved have been able to operate most efficiently, as witness 90% of planes in commission for the entire month. One plane was badly damaged in a landing accident and was transferred to the 621st Service Squadron and two planes slightly damaged in taxi accidents were repaired in the Squadron.

The Armament and Ordnance sections have found time to solve particular problems with a resulting increase in safety and efficiency. After experiencing considerable difficulty with "hung bombs", armament replaced the B-10 type bomb shackle with the B-7 and installed adjustable bolts on the permanent type sway braces which were on the planes, and since this work was done there

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have been no "hung bombs". Amament developed an improved method for loading bombs from dunnage to trailer by using a truck, bomb lift, M1 to elevate or lower the end of the bomb dunnage to the height of the trailer, bomb, M5.

This month also saw the awarding of various decorations ranging from the Distinguished Flying Cross to the Purple Heart to a considerable number of officers and enlisted men with Generals DOUGLAS and MOORE, commanding Seventh Air Force and VII Fighter Command respectively, making the presentations in the majority of cases. (For details, see Appendix #1).

An extensive program for improvement of the Squadron's quarters area is well under way. Work has progressed rapidly in construction of wooden floors and frames for all tents and construction has been started on the first of four Quonset huts which will become quarters for Pilot personnel. A good company street has been put through the area using the old standby, coral rock. Present plans also call for two additional Quonset huts -- one will house the Engineering and Communications sections and the other will be a headquarters building.

With the addition of twelve new pilots who reported during the month, the amount of time devoted to training has increased materially. Supplementing the usual flying training program, a program of ground training has been started for the particular benefit of new pilots but with all pilots attending some of the classes. Considerable emphasis is given to geographic orientation and recognition.

The general health situation in the Squadron ranged from one extreme to another. During the first half of the month, there was a great increase in the number of personnel on sick call with many cases of Dengue Fever, infections and skin diseases, but as the month drew to a close, Dengue had almost disappeared and there were comparatively few cases of other types. For the statis-

SECRET

- 2 -

SECRET

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

tically minded a weight check taken at the end of the month disclosed average weight losses as follows: EM - 14.2 pounds, ground officers - 8 pounds, and pilots - 7 pounds. The only casualty resulting from flying during the month was the skull fracture and other severe head injuries suffered by Lt. R. L. GORMIER in a landing accident on return from a Pagan mission on 26 September 1944 - Lt. GORMIER has been evacuated to Oahu.

Morale of the outfit, after a decided slump in August, did not improve materially but on the other hand neither did it show any particular decline. The continued lack of fresh foods and limited variety of diet is a decided sore spot. Offsetting this to some extent are improved living quarters and a definitely announced plan of rotation for EM with seventeen (17) due for early shipment. In this same connection, an interesting graph (see Appendix (2)) has been prepared showing length of foreign service in percentage groups.

While the month of September was quiet when compared with June and July, the Squadron has made definite and tangible progress in addition to carrying out its primary mission, the Air Defense of Saipan.

SECRET

- 3 -

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CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY FOR SEPTEMBER

3 September: Following listed pilots, assigned this Squadron 24 August 1944, report for duty:

1st Lt. JOHN W. AYLER
 2nd Lt. GLENN L. ANDERSON
 MARSHALL C. BLACKWOOD
 JAMES E. CAMPBELL
 JACK COUNTS
 ALBERT I. BRYANT
 JOSEPH W. CROCI
 JOHN E. DANNER

5 September: Following listed officer and enlisted men awarded Purple Heart as of the 13th of July 1944 for wounds received during enemy action of 7th July 1944, authority for award General Orders No. 17, Hq. Army Garrison Force, APO #244, dated 1 September 1944 (Par. 1)

1st Lt. JOHN W. CANTWELL
 S/Sgt ORRIN A. MADSEN
 Cpl ARMAND F. MORESETTE

7 September: Following listed enlisted man awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to the Purple Heart, General Orders No. 40, Hq. Army Garrison Force, APO #244, dated 3 September 1944 (sec. 11) for wounds received during enemy action on June 28, 1944.

S/Sgt EDWARD W. WHITE

10 September: S/Sgt WILBUR WRIGHT evacuated to Oahu, TH for further hospitalization as of the 8th -- from Gen. Hosp. APO #244 148th Gen. Hosp.

Following listed pilots, all enroute to join Squadron since 24 August, report for duty.

2nd Lt. FLOYD E. RICE
 KENNETH W. TITUS
 ROY H. WEBSTER
 F/O JAMES D. HANDLY, JR.

12 September: Following listed enlisted men evacuated to Oahu from 369th Sta. Hosp. APO #244 for further hospitalization as of the 10th.

Sgt PATSY TIERNY
 LUCAS J. WALTER

15 September: First live show presented at Group theatre, Commander PRABODY and troupe.

- 1 -

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- 17 September: M/Sgt RAY D. HAMMER awarded the Bronze Star Medal, 16th September 1944, General Orders #47, Hq. AGF, dated 13 Sept. 1944.
- 19 & 20 Sept: Air Medals and Distinguished Flying Crosses awarded to pilots (See Appendix #1)
- 21 September: Sgt WHITEHEAD on furlough to Oahu for 30 days. Left Squadron at 0700.
- 22 September: 1st Lt. JOHN H. BLAIR asgnd to Squadron from 19th Firon, AAF, assumed Prim Duty as S-2 Officer.
- 1st Lt. HUGH J. BRUSSEL to temp duty with 318th Fighter Group as Personnel Equipment Officer.
- 23 September: Captain O'HARE to 318th Group as temporary Operations Officer.
- 24 September: S/Sgt KUSHNER from 148th General Hospital evacuated to Oahu for further hospitalization as of the 22nd September.
- 25 September: Following listed enlisted men report for duty, from 45th Firon.

T/Sgt FRANK R. MILTON
S/Sgt RAYMOND W. GREEN
Sgt ALEX J. ALLEN
Cpl BOB E. DRAKE
Cpl ALAN J. NEVINS
Pfc HOWARD B. SMITH

- 26 September: M/Sgt FRYE from 148th General Hosp. evacuated to Oahu for further hospitalization, as of 24 September.

Following listed enlisted men report for duty from 45th Firon.

Sgt EDWARD F. O'BRIEN
Pvt ROBERT D. JUSTICE
RICHARD D. COATES

Following listed officers on DS to Oahu.

1st Lt. WILLIAM R. WILSON
JULIUS E. SMITH
2nd Lt. EUGEN J. SHEWMAN
FREDERICK F. GABICK
Capt. ALAN B. SINAUER

Construction begun on floors for tents, and on company street.

- 27 September: 1st Lt. HERBERT E. MARTIN leaves Squadron to attend Instrument training school at Bryan, Texas, left at 0700.

Following listed EM report for dy fr 45th Firon.

Pfc WALTER G. ZAMMINER, WILLIAM E. NOVEMBER, WILLIAM J. BASSETTE. SECRET

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY73B FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFAPPENDIX #1

A. Awards of Air Medals, Oak Leaf Clusters, and Distinguished Flying Crosses to Pilots on 19 and 20 September.

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Award Received</u>
Major HENNEY	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M., Distinguished Flying Cross.
Captain BRIDSON	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
Captain O'HARE	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
Captain FLYNN	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. BILSON	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. MARTIN	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. SHERMAN	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. WYDER	Distinguished Flying Cross.
1st Lt. THOMPSON	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. SMITH	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. SMILL	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. GALT	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. STEVENS	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
1st Lt. SHEPARD	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. FINE	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. BYERS	Air Medal
2nd Lt. ANDERSON, R.	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. BABCOCK	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. SHENEMAN	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. RAINHILL	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.

(Organizational History, 734 Fighter Squadron, AAF, Appendix #1, Continued)

<u>Pilot</u>	<u>Award Received</u>
2nd Lt. GRHAM	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. HOWARD	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. MATTHEWSON	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. CORRIEN	Air Medal.
2nd Lt. DE VONA	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. O'NEARA	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. RILEY	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. THOMAS	Air Medal.
2nd Lt. FURBER	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. CASICK	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.
2nd Lt. MILLER	Air Medal, Oak Leaf Cluster to A.M.

E. Following listed Enlisted Men awarded Oak Leaf Cluster to Purple Heart, General Orders No. 40, Hq. Army Garrison Force, APO #244, dated 3 September 1944 (see 11) for wounds received during enemy action on June 29, 1944.

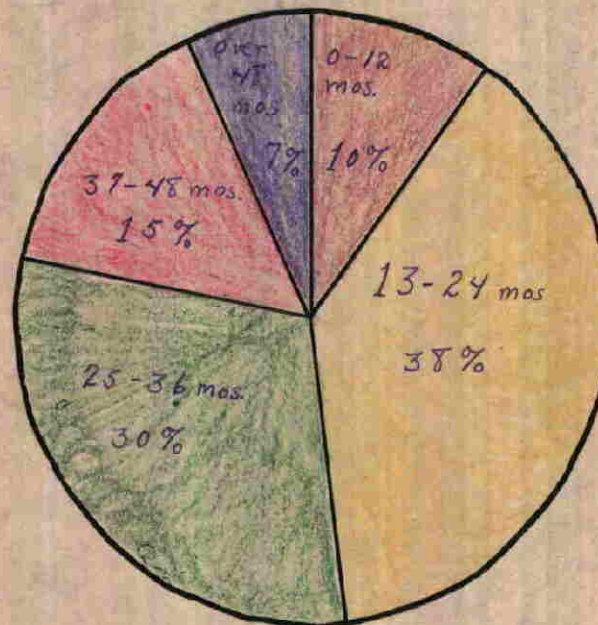
S/Sgt EDWARD W. WHITE.

G. Following named Enlisted Men awarded Bronze Star Medal, 16 September 1944, General Orders #47, Hq. AOF, dated 13 September 1944.

M/Sgt RAY D. HAMMER.

APPENDIX #2

TIME OVERSEAS



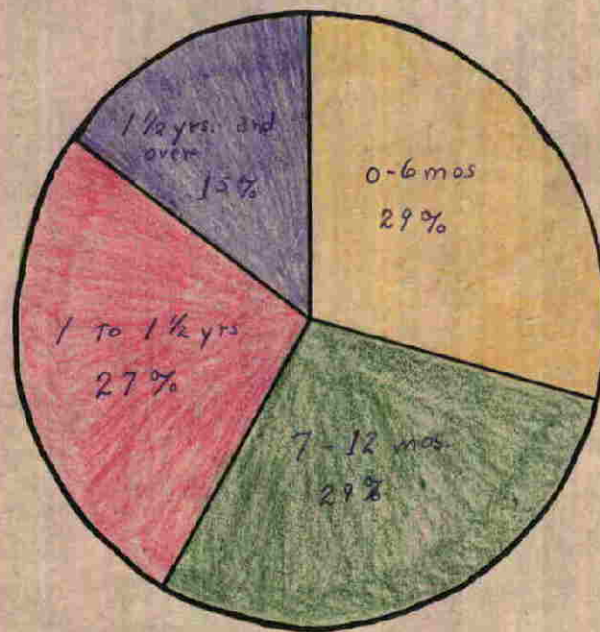
ENLISTED MEN

Percentages were computed on a total of 243 Enlisted Men in the Squadron as of September 30, 1944.

The percentage of men with 0-12 months (10%) is somewhat distorted by the addition of twelve men to the roster late in the month.

APPENDIX #2

TIME OVERSEAS



OFFICERS

Percentages were computed on a total of 62 officers in the squadron as of September 30, 1944.

The percentage of men in the first group (0 to 6 months) is somewhat distorted by the addition of twelve new pilots during the month of September.

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75D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAFAPPENDIX # 3RESUME OF MONTH'S MISSIONS

<u>Type of Mission</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Pagan Target Sorties</u>	<u>Abort. Sorties</u>
Strafing & Rockets	3	47	1
Dive-bombing, Strafing & Rockets	1	15	1
Dive-bombing & Strafing	3	55	5
	—	—	—
Total	7	117	7

EXPENDITURES FOR SEPTEMBER

Cartridges, Caliber .50	54,840
Rockets	163
Bombs, 500 pound	86
Bombs with .025 second delay fuse	80
Bombs with 8 to 10 second delay fuse	6

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

30 SEPTEMBER 1944

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #9-29
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #9-7

1. A. TWELVE (12) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. BOMBING AND STRAFING OF ROAD AND STORAGE AREA AT WEST END OF CLIFF. STRAFING OF BUILDINGS (POSSIBLE MILITARY STORES) ON WEST COAST BETWEEN RUNWAY AND LAKE. TARGETS ON PAGAN.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. BYERS, SNYDER, ANDERSON (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. MILLET, HARBOUR, SPIVEY (VIOLET 13).
CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. SPILLMAN, RESER, GRAHAM (VIOLET 14).

TAKE-OFF: 0850 ON TARGET: 1000 LANDING: 1130

THIS MISSION WAS CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH TWELVE PLANES FROM THE 333RD FIGHTER SQUADRON.

VIOLET 11 AND 13 MADE THEIR DIVE-BOMBING RUN FROM 8,000 FEET TO 2,500 FEET ON ROAD AND STORAGE AREAS AT WEST END OF CLIFF -- DIRECTION OF RUN FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. TEN HITS IN TARGET AREA, TWO SHORT (IN WATER) AND FOUR LONG. THESE FLIGHTS THEN MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS FROM NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST.

VIOLET 14 MADE THREE STRAFING RUNS - ONE FROM SW TO NE AND TWO FROM NW TO SE. TWO OF THE FOUR BUILDINGS IN THEIR ASSIGNED TARGET AREA WERE LEFT BURNING AND A THIRD WAS SMOKING.

5. A. ENROUTE AND RETURNING 3/10 CUMULUS - BASE 2,000 FEET.
4/10 AT 2,000 FEET OVER TARGET. WIND 15 MPH FROM 45° ON DECK.
B. SLATS NOT CONTACTED - SLATS ENROUTE TO PAGAN AS FLIGHTS WERE RETURNING TO BASE.
6. UNDETERMINED EXCEPT FOR FIRES STARTED.
7. 7,695 POUNDS 50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 16 X 500 LB GP BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 3,120 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. NONE.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

26 SEPTEMBER 1944.

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 9-25
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 9-8

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR (24) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. ONE (1) P-47 CRASHED UPON LANDING. MAJOR DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT. PILOT SERIOUSLY INJURED.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMB 20 MM A/A POSITIONS ON EAST END OF RIDGE. DIVE-BOMB 20 MM A/A POSITIONS ON CONE NORTHEAST OF EAST END OF RIDGE. DIVE-BOMB BEACH DEFENSES NORTHEAST OF PENINSULA ON EAST COAST. STRAFE POSSIBLE RADAR SITE NORTHWEST OF PENINSULA ON EAST COAST. SEARCH FOR REPORTED FLOAT PLANE ON WEST COAST.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. BATTISON, SNYDER, ANDERSON (VIOLET 11).⁵ CAPT. NELSON, LTS. MILLET, SHEPARD, DE VONA (VIOLET 13). CAPT. O'HARE, LTS. HOWARD, FIETZ, CORMIER (VIOLET 14). CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. BYERS, STEVENS, FURGE (VIOLET 15). LTS. WILSON, BABICK, SMITH, MILLER (VIOLET 17). LTS. SPENCER, SHENEMAN, GALT, BARNHILL (VIOLET 18).

VIOLET 17-3 LANDED AT 1045 DUE TO GENERATOR TROUBLE.
VIOLET 17-1 LANDED AT 1055 DUE TO GENERATOR TROUBLE.
VIOLET 13-4 FAILED TO TAKE OFF DUE TO BROKEN HYDRAULIC LINE.

TAKE-OFF: 1035 OVER TARGET: 1145 LANDING: 1305

VIOLET 11 MADE THEIR BOMB RUN FROM N TO S ON GUN POSITIONS IN CONE STARTING RUN AT 5,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 2,000 FEET - TWO HITS SQUARELY IN CENTER OF TARGET AREA, FOUR NEAR MISSES TO THE SOUTH AND TWO WERE SHORT. VIOLET 19 CAME IN AFTER VIOLET 15 FROM N TO S AND BOMBED GUN POSITIONS ON EAST END OF RIDGE - TWO BOMBS IN TARGET AREA, TWO NEAR MISSES TO THE NORTH, TWO NEAR MISSES TO THE SOUTH AND TWO WERE LONG. VIOLET 11 AND 19 CIRCLED AND STRAFED VILLAGE NORTH OF LAKE ON WEST COAST. VIOLET 14 AND 17 DIVE-BOMBED BEACH DEFENSES STARTING RUN AT 5,000 FEET AND RELEASING AT 2,000 FEET - TWELVE BOMBS IN TARGET AREA. VIOLET 13 AND 15 MADE TWO STRAFING RUNS ON POSSIBLE RADAR SITE FROM NE TO SW - FIRST PASS AT 500 FEET AND SECOND PASS AT 100 FEET - UNABLE TO IDENTIFY THE TARGET. VIOLET 13 AND 15 THEN LOOKED FOR REPORTED FLOAT PLANE ON WEST COAST BUT WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE IT.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT # 0-6

5. A. SOLID FRONT FROM NORTH END OF PAGAN TO APPROXIMATELY FIFTY (50) MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN. 9/10 CLOUD COVER OVER TARGET AREAS FROM 4,500 TO 5,500 FEET.
B. GOOD - SLATS NOT CONTACTED HOWEVER, HAVING RETURNED TO BASE.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 15,105 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION EXPENDED. 32 X 500 LB BOMBS (INSTANTANEOUS FUSES). 5,835 GALLONS GAS.
8. FRIENDLY SUBMARINES SUPPOSED TO BE WEST OF ANATAHAN NOT SIGHTED. VIOLET 11-4 REPORTS POSSIBLE RADAR SITE ON RIDGE IN CENTER OF THINNEST PART OF PAGAN.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

20 September 1944
1200 Local

31st Fighter Group Mission No. 9-23
73rd Fighter Squadron Mission No. 9-5

1. A. Twenty-four (24) P-47D's
B. None.
2. A. None.
B. None
3. Bombing and strafing gun positions on Pagan Island.

4. Major EUS BY, Lts. O'HARA, SPENCER, CONNIER. (Violet 11)
Captain NELSON, Lts. BARNHILL, SNYDER, ANDERSON. (Violet 13)
Captain O'HARE, Lts. SPIVEY, SNELL, GRAHAM. (Violet 14)
Captain ELYNN, Lts. RILEY*, FIETZ, HOWARD. (Violet 15)
Lts. WILSON, BYERS, SMITH, MATTHEW. (Violet 17)
Lts. MARTIN, BARBOCK, GALT**, SHREVEAN. (Violet 18)

* Violet 15-2 did not have a plane and therefore did not take-off.

** Violet 18-3 did not take off because of stuck poppet valve and failure of engine to start.

Take-off: 0720

On Target: 0825

Landing: 0945

The flight flew at 10,000' on the way out and returned at 5,000'. Violet 11 and 17 orbited over the target (the five gun positions near the farmhouse east of the runway), while four strafing runs on the target were made by Violet 14 and 15. The first strafing pass was made by Violet 14 from North-west to South-east. The 2nd and 3rd were made by Violet 15 from the South-west to North-east and North to South respectively. One burst of A/M was seen on the 3rd pass, east and the fourth by Violet 14 from South to North. Then Violet 11 because of the cloud over the target made two glide-bombing runs from East to West from 4,000' to 1500'. Violet 11-1's bombs hit in center of target, others were long or short and wide. Then Violet 11-1 and 11-2 made a North to South strafing pass on cliff positions. Violet 17 also made two glide bombing runs from 4500' to 2500' in a South-west to North-east direction on the first run and East to West on the second. Four hits were observed as near misses, two were long and two failed to explode.

Violet 13 and 18 attacked through a small break in the clouds their target (gun positions in river bed and coral pits 1/8 mile due east of center of big lake on west coast of Pagan). Violet 13 and 18 dive-bombed from 10,000' to 3500' on the target coming in from the East to West. Violet 18 strafed wooded area from West to East. A/M was negligible.

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625

73rd Fighter Squadron Mission Report #9-5

5. Weather enroute to Pagan good. Layer of clouds over target at 2,000 feet. Communications poor. Unable to contact Slate.
6. Undetermined.
7. 8,095 rounds .50 caliber ammunition expended, 20 X 500 lb bombs (24 with instantaneous fuses and 6 with 8-10 second delayfuses). 7,060 gallons gas.
8. Violet 14-1 was hit in wing and cowl by ricocheting bullets from his own guns. Roads in northern target area are heavily traveled. Clouds obscured targets. No float plane sighted.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 24415 SEPTEMBER 1944
1000 (LOCAL)318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #9-19
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #9-4

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. ROCKETS AND STRAFING OF GUN POSITIONS EAST OF RUNWAY ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. ANDERSON, SPENCER, CORMIER. (VIOLET 11)
LTS. WILSON, BYERS, (SNYDER)*, FURGE. (VIOLET 17)
CAPTAIN NELSON, LTS. MILLER, FIETZ, RILEY. (VIOLET 13)
CAPTAIN O'HARE, LT. MILLET, MAJOR CHAPIN, LT. BABCOCK (VIOLET 14)

TAKE-OFF: 0620

ON TARGET: 0730

LANDING: 0650

(*VIOLET 17-3 RETURNED TO BASE AT 0630 DUE TO ENGINE TROUBLE.)

THE FIRST PASS WAS MADE FROM EAST TO WEST BY VIOLET 14, STRAFING THE GUN POSITIONS IN THE CLIFF. VIOLET 11 THEN CAME IN FROM NORTH-WEST TO SOUTH-EAST, DIVING FROM 8,000 FEET TO 2,000 TO RELEASE THE ROCKETS ON THE ASSIGNED TARGET AREA. HITS WERE OBSERVED IN AND ADJACENT TO THE GUN POSITIONS. VIOLET 17 THEN MADE A SIMILAR ROCKET ATTACK WITH HITS OBSERVED NEAR THE GUN POSITIONS. MEANWHILE VIOLET 11 MADE A WEST TO EAST STRAFING RUN ON THE GUN POSITIONS ON THE CLIFF. VIOLET 13 THEN ATTACKED FROM SOUTH-WEST TO NORTH-EAST STRAFING THE GUN POSITIONS OF THE ASSIGNED TARGET.

VIOLET 14, AFTER ITS INITIAL PASS, MADE RECONNAISSANCE AND STRAFING PASSES OVER A PLATEAU AREA IN THE CENTRAL SECTION OF SOUTHERN PAGAN. NO RADAR WAS OBSERVED. VIOLET 11, AFTER ITS STRAFING PASS PROCEEDED NORTHWARD AND MADE SEVERAL RECONNAISSANCE PASSES OVER THE NORTHERN AND NORTH-EASTERN COAST AND INNER COAST AREAS OF PAGAN AS DID VIOLET 17. NO RADAR SIGHTED. VIOLET 13 MADE RECONNAISSANCE PASSES OVER THE EAST COAST OF PAGAN (EAST OF THE RUNWAY) AND OBSERVED A SMALL SHED OR BARN ON THE NORTH-EAST SIDE OF A SMALL CONE. NO RADAR SIGHTED.

VIOLET 14-3 SUSTAINED A SPLINTERED WINDSHIELD FROM A 12.7 MM HIT FROM A CLIFF POSITION WHILE COMING IN FOR HIS STRAFING PASS.

NO A/A ENCOUNTERED. A/W WAS MEAGER.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #9-4.

5. A. VISIBILITY GOOD. CLEAR OVER TARGET, WEATHER-FORECAST EXCELLENT.
B. GOOD. UNABLE TO CONTACT GLATS.

6. UNDETERMINED.

7. 8,435 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 34 ROCKETS EXPENDED.
4,400 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.

8. DUMBO WAS NOT AIRBORNE WHEN FLIGHT TOOK OFF. SUGGEST THAT A
10-PLANE FLIGHT WITH BOMBS BE USED TO KNOCK OUT THE GUN POS-
ITIONS IN TARGET AREA.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF.
APO # 244

12 SEPTEMBER 1944
1200 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #9-17
73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 9-3

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11's.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. DIVE-BOMBING, STRAFING AND ROCKETS ON BUILDINGS ON CLIFF SOUTH OF RUNWAY -- PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. (CORMIER)*, FIETZ, BYERS (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. TOWHEY, LTS. O'HARA, HARBOUR, RILEY (VIOLET 16).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. DE VONA, SHEPARD, BARNHILL (VIOLET 13).
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. SHENBER, SPIVEY, WILSON, YEAGER (VIOLET 15).

* 11-2 PANGAKED AT 0905 DUE TO FAULTY BELLY TANK.

TAKE-OFF: 0830 ON TARGET: 0835 LANDING: 1040

VIOLET 13 WAS THE FIRST TO ATTACK THE TARGET - BUILDINGS ALONG THE WOODS WEST OF THE ROAD AND DIVE-BOMBED THIS AREA FROM 10,000 FEET RELEASING BOMBS AT 3,000 FEET. FOUR HITS WERE OBSERVED IN THE TARGET AND 4 WERE LONG.

MEANWHILE VIOLET 15 STRAFED FROM SW TO NE THE GUN POSITIONS ALONG THE CLIFF AND THEN MADE A NORTH-SOUTH STRAFING PASS OVER THE A/A POSITIONS NEAR THE FARMHOUSE EAST OF THE RUNWAY.

VIOLET 13 REFORMED AFTER THEIR BOMBING RUN AND STRAFED THE GUN POSITIONS ON THE CLIFF FROM E TO W. VIOLET 11 THEN ATTACKED FROM S TO NW THE GROUP OF BUILDINGS EAST OF THE ROAD NEAR THE EDGE OF THE WOODS - DIVING FROM 7,000 FEET AND RELEASING ROCKETS AT 2,500 FEET.

VIOLET 16-1 AND 2 ROCKET ATTACKED THE SAME TARGET FROM SE TO NW. ALL ROCKET HITS WERE OBSERVED IN THE AREA AND A LARGE FIRE WAS STARTED. VIOLET 16-3 AND 4, FROM THE NE TO SW, DROVE FROM 8,000 FEET AND RELEASING ROCKETS AT 3,000 FEET ON THE ROW OF BUILDINGS EAST OF THE ROAD. ROCKETS WERE LONG AND SHORT OF TARGET. THEN VIOLET 11 STRAFED FROM N TO S THE GUN POSITIONS NEAR THE VILLAGE AND RUNWAY.

VIOLET 15-1 ENCOUNTERED A HEAVY BUMP AT 500 FEET WHILE FLYING OVER GUN POSITIONS NEAR FARMHOUSE AND THOUGHT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN CAUSED BY A LAND MINE. A/A AND A/W WERE MEAGER.

5. A. 3/10 AT 2,500 FEET. VISIBILITY GOOD.
B. GOOD. UNABLE TO CONTACT SLATS.

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73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 9-3

6. A LARGE FIRE WAS STARTED BY THE ROCKETS IN THE HOUSE AREA ON THE EDGE OF THE ROAD NEXT TO THE WOODS. BUILDINGS WERE APPARENTLY DESTROYED.
7. 5,300 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER AMMUNITION, 38 X ROCKETS, 8 X 500 POUND BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUSES. 4,200 GALLONS GAS.
8. RUNWAY NOT OPERATIONAL.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF.
APO # 244

8 SEPTEMBER 1944
1600 LOCAL

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1. A. 23 TWENTY-THREE (23) P-47D-11'S.
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ISLAND DEFENSE EXERCISE -- SCRAMBLED AT 1333.
4. CAPT. TOUHEY, LTS. O'HARA, MARTIN, FIETZ (VIOLET 16).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. RESER, HARBOUR, DE VONA (VIOLET 13).
LTS. SPENCER, BARNHILL, SHEPARD, SHEREMAN (VIOLET 19).
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. YEAGER, STEVENS, MILLER (VIOLET 15).
LTS. THOMPSON, HOWARD, SNELL, MILLET (VIOLET 17).
*LTS. CALT, BYERS, CORMIER (VIOLET 80)

*VIOLET 80 DID NOT TAKE OFF - THE PLANES WERE OUT OF COMMISSION
AND BY THE TIME THEY WERE IN, THE FLIGHTS WERE LANDING.

TAKE-OFF:

LANDING:

VIOLET 15	-- 1335		1515
VIOLET 17	-- 1338		1518
VIOLET 16	-- 1400		1425
VIOLET 13	-- 1402		1520
VIOLET 19	-- 1405		1530

VIOLET 15 AND 17 WERE ON ALERT AND TOOK OFF AT 1335 AND 1338
RESPECTIVELY AND ARRIVED OVER SUGAR, ANGELS 10 AT 1345 WHERE
THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED BY CONDOR 3. BOTH FLIGHTS PROCEEDED TO
SUGAR, ANGELS 15 AND THEN FOLLOWED A VECTOR OF 240 DEGREES
FOR ABOUT 10 MINUTES AND THEN WERE ORDERED TO RETURN TO POINT
WILLIAM, ANGEL 10, ARRIVING OVER POINT AT 1415. THEY ORBITED
UNTIL ORDERED TO PANCAKE AT 1500 AND PANCAKED AT 1515 AND
1518 RESPECTIVELY.

VIOLET 16 TOOK OFF AT 1400 AND WAS OVER SUGAR, ANGEL 10
AT 1410 AND THEN ORBITED. PANCAKE ORDER GIVEN AT 1420.
PANCAKED AT 1425.

VIOLET 13 AND 19 TOOK OFF AT 1402 AND 1405 RESPECTIVELY,
ARRIVING OVER SUGAR, ANGELS 10 AT 1415. CONTROL ORDERED THEM
TO ORBIT. PANCAKE ORDER GIVEN AT 1505 AND FLIGHTS PANCAKED
AT 1520 AND 1530 RESPECTIVELY.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON -- MISSION REPORT, ISLAND DEFENSE EXERCISE.

5. A. 4/10 AT 20,000 FEET. VISIBILITY GOOD.
B. GOOD AND CLEAR.
6. NONE.
7. 3,600 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. CONGESTION OF SEVEN (7) FLIGHTS AT 10,000 FEET OVER POINT WILLIAM WITH SEVERAL MORE AT 8,000 AND 15,000 FEET SEEMED HAZARDOUS AND OBSERVATION FOR BOGEYS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF.
APO # 2445 SEPTEMBER 1944
1200 LOCAL318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 9-7
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 9-2

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE.
B. NONE.
3. ROCKET AND STRAFING ATTACK ON A/A POSITIONS NORTHMMMM OF WEST END OF RUNWAY AND SOUTHWEST OF SHOMOSHUN VILLAGE.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. MILLER, BABCOCK, RILEY (VIOLET 11).
CAPT. NELSON, LTS. GORMIER, SPENCER, BYERS (VIOLET 13).
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. O'HARA, SMITH, FURGE (VIOLET 15).
LT. COL. TAYLOR, LTS. SPILLMAN, FIETZ, BARNHILL (VIOLET 32).

TAKE-OFF: 0810 ON TARGET: 0925 LANDING: 1045

VIOLET 13 LED THE FLIGHTS TO THE TARGET AND MADE THE FIRST ATTACK COMING IN FROM THE NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST DIVING FROM 7,000 FEET AND RELEASING ROCKETS AT 2,500 FEET ON THE A/A POSITIONS SOUTHWEST OF SHOMOSHUN VILLAGE. HITS WERE OBSERVED IN AND AROUND THE TARGET AREA. VIOLET 32 THEN CAME IN FROM THE SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST ATTACKING THE A/A POSITIONS NORTH OF THE WEST END OF RUNWAY BY RELEASING ROCKETS AT 3,000 FEET. HITS WERE OBSERVED IN AND OVER TARGET AREA. VIOLET 32 PULLED AWAY FROM TARGET AND FROM SOUTHWEST TO NORTHWEST STRAFED THREE BARGES BEACHED SOUTH OF THE LAGOON. IN THE MEANWHILE, VIOLET 11 STRAFED FROM SOUTH TO NORTH THE ACTIVE GUN POSITIONS NORTH OF FARMHOUSE EAST OF RUNWAY (4 GUNS). VIOLET 15 STRAFED FROM WEST TO EAST THE ACTIVE GUN POSITIONS ON THE CLIFF SOUTHEAST OF RUNWAY AND ALSO STRAFED FROM NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST THE 4 GUN POSITIONS NORTH OF THE FARMHOUSE. A/A AND A/W MODERATE TO MEAGER.

5. A. CLEAR. VISIBILITY GOOD.
B. UNABLE TO CONTACT SLATS.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 6,155 ROUNDS .50 CAL AMMUNITION, 47 ROCKETS EXPENDED AND ONE BROUGHT BACK TO BASE. 4,560 GALLONS GAS CONSUMED.
8. RUNWAY FAIR BUT NOT OPERATIVE. RECOMMEND PLANE ON RUNWAY BE DEMOLISHED. ALL ISLANDS ON RETURN TO BASE WERE OBSERVED AND NO SIGNS OF LIFE OR ACTIVITY WERE EVIDENT.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO # 244

3 SEPTEMBER 1944
1200 LOCAL

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #9-4
73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #9-1

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D-11'S
B. NONE.
2. A. NONE
B. NONE.
3. ROCKETS AND STRAFING A/A GUN POSITIONS ON CLIFF SOUTH OF RUNWAY ON PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR HUSSEY, LTS. SPILLMAN, THOMPSON, GRAHAM, (VIOLET 11)
CAPT., NELSON, LTS. BARNHILL, SHENEMAN, FURGE. (VIOLET 13)
CAPT. FLYNN, LTS. MILLER, STEVENS, RILEY. (VIOLET 15)
LTS. WILSON, SABICK, MARTIN, BABCOCK. (VIOLET 17)

TAKE-OFF: 0750

LANDING: 1005

ON TARGET: 0857

VIOLET 11 WAS THE FIRST TO ATTACK, COMING IN FROM THE NORTH-WEST TO THE SOUTH-EAST RELEASING ITS BOMBS AT 3,000 FEET. HITS WERE IN AND AROUND THE TARGET AREA. DUE TO A MALFUNCTION, VIOLET 11-2 WAS UNABLE TO RELEASE ROCKETS ON THE FIRST PASS. A SEMI SECONDARY PASS WAS MADE; VIOLET 11-3 STRAFING, 11-2 RELEASING ROCKETS, 11-3 TAKING PICTURES AND 11-4 ACCOMPANYING. HITS WERE NOT OBSERVED. VIOLET 13 CAME IN FROM THE NORTH-WEST TO THE SOUTH-EAST AND STRAFED THE TARGET.

THEN VIOLET 17 ATTACKED FROM NORTH TO SOUTH RELEASING ITS ROCKETS AT 3,000 FEET TOWARDS THE TARGET. THEN VIOLET 15 CAME FROM NORTH-WEST TO SOUTH-EAST AND STRAFED THE TARGET.

NO FIRE OF ANY SORT WAS RECEIVED FROM THE GUN POSITIONS UNDER ATTACK. POSSIBLE 90MM WAS OBSERVED ABOVE THE CLOUDS (WHITE PU FFS). FOUR (4) GUNS WERE OBSERVED FIRING FROM THE POSITIONS NORTH OF THE FARMHOUSE AND OF THE RUNWAY.

5. A. 2/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 1800 FEET. VISIBILITY GOOD.
B. GOOD. DUMBO CONTACTED.
6. RESULT UNDETERMINED.
7. FORTY FOUR (44) ROCKETS, 4,075 ROUNDS .50 CALIBER. 4400 GALLONS OF GAS CONSUMED.

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73D FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #9-1.

8. CLOUD SHADOW OVER TARGET HINDERED REPORTING OF DEFINITE RESULTS OF ATTACK. THE T/E PLANE ON NORTH EDGE OF RUNWAY SEEMED TO STAND OUT PREDOMINATELY, PERHAPS REPAINTED.

IT SEEMS THAT SEVERAL OF THE JAP GUNS ARE FIRING SUPER-SENSITIVE SHELLS WHICH ARE NOT SELF-DESTRUCTIVE AND EXPLODE ONLY WHEN THEY HIT THE WATER.

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