

RETURN TO RESEARCH STUDIES INSTITUTE U.S.A.F. HISTORICAL DIVISION ARCHIVES BRANCH	9-F.I. 14-A.I.(9) (AF) 404 1944 X
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Historical Division-AAFPOA

Organizational History, 19th Fighter Squadron, 318th
Fighter Group, VII Fighter Command, Seventh Air Force.

August 1, 1944 - August 31, 1944

1. Organization:

Negative.

2. Strength:

54 Officers
242 Enlisted Men

3. Date of arrival and departure from each station
occupied in this theater:

By air and motor convoy from Isely to East Field.
Distance travelled approximately 8 miles. 1 August 1944.

4. Losses:

None.

5. Awards and Decorations:

None.

P.R.C.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO #244. (CONT'D)

Narrative History of the 19th Fighter Squadron for the month of August 1944;

The day that the island of Tinian fell to the United States Marine Corps, 1 August 1944, the 19th Fighter Squadron moved from Isely to East Field, the new 5,000 foot strip on Kagman Point, Saipan. The entire movement was accomplished without interrupting the daily tactical strikes against the remaining Japanese forces on Tinian. Two strafing missions were successfully completed that evening.

A comparison with the July History shows that following the fall of Tinian, the Squadron quantitative performance record was reduced by about one-third. The monthly flying time of 1538:10 included 27 missions for a total of 264 pilot sorties and 12 abortives. With the exception of 7 Search missions, the entire Squadron effort consisted of bombings and/or strafings. The emphasis on targets shifted from Tinian to Pagan Island, plus a few strikes against the enemy-held Rota and Aguijan Islands. 86 1/2 tons of 500 lb. G.P. bombs and 6 3/5 tons of Fire bombs were dropped against varied targets while 90,500 rounds of .50 cal. ammunition were expended.

The reduction in the number of missions performed was indicative of the rapid progress of the offensive campaign in the Marianas. July had offered a maximum of targets and missions to be flown - there was plenty of work for all 7th AAF Squadrons based in the Marianas. With the capture of Tinian and Guam, the only remaining islands in enemy hands that were of interest to the fighter squadrons were Rota, Aguijan, and Pagan. The first two were, in a sense, reserved for those squadrons based on Guam while Pagan became the particular objective of the 318th Fighter Group based at East Field, Saipan. A definite routine was established which resulted in one mission a day being scheduled against this island to our north. The 19th, 73rd, and 333rd Fighter Squadrons alternated in the performance of three basic duties, - Combat Air Patrol, a daylight Alert period, and strikes against the enemy. Thus every third day this Squadron sent 16-20 ships to Pagan to aid in keeping that island completely neutralized. To place this mission in the category of a "milk run" would be a misstatement of fact. Although the Japanese garrison was denied the use of their runway due to the incessant bombings, they were able to keep a great number of medium to heavy A/A guns in action and their accuracy with these weapons has earned them a healthy respect from the pilots in this Group. The losses, as far as this Squadron is concerned, have been one plane shot down (Mission Report 8-3) and one plane seriously hit although the pilot was able to return to base (Mission Report # 8-22). The pilot of the downed plane was picked up at sea the next day (Mission Report #8-11) after having spent a portion of the night on the Jap-held island.

The month of August saw the successful conclusion of the 19th Fighter Squadron's primary mission in the Marianas campaign.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO #244. (CONT'D)

Narrative History of the 19th Fighter Squadron for the month of August 1944. (cont'd).

Ground support had been the important thing from the 22nd of June, the day the first fighter pilots landed on Saipan, until the American Flag was raised on Guam and it was officially secured. During that time every strike against the enemy was of paramount importance in terms of yards gained and American lives saved. With the capture of Guam the war, in a sense, moved away from the immediate scene. There was time to look over the Squadron's performance in a detached and objective way that was heretofore impossible.

In the course of the Marianas campaign which saw the successful invasion and capture of Saipan, Tinian, and Guam Islands, the 19th Fighter Squadron compiled an enviable record of "firsts". Led by Major HARRY E. McAFEE on 22 June 1944 the flying officers of this Squadron were the first 7th AAF pilots to land on Aslito airfield, Saipan. In July, Major McAFEE was the first 7th AAF fighter pilot over Tinian Island on D-Day when he directed the troops to the landing beaches (Mission Report # 7-60, July History also Inclosure # 1). Later in the Tinian campaign Major McAFEE was the first 7th AAF pilot to land at Ushi Pt. airfield on that bitterly contested island (Inclosure # 1). Lt. HOWARD H. BARRETT, on 3 August 1944, while on a dive-bombing mission over Guam had to make a forced landing at Orote airfield, Guam, and thus became the first 7th AAF pilot to use that field (Mission Report # 8-7).

The most spectacular "first" held by any member of the Squadron was found in the experiences of Lt. JOHN J. DELP. Forced to parachute from his plane, which had been fatally hit over Pagan Island, Lt. DELP successfully employed his rubber life raft about 20 miles south of Pagan. During the night he drifted on to the southern tip of Pagan where he stayed for approximately 40 minutes (Mission Report # 8-3 and Inclosure # 2). Lt. DELP is the only member of the United States Armed Forces to have spent any time on Pagan Island and return without detection or attempted capture.

These incidents, although in themselves, not tactically important, serve as a powerful factor in aiding Squadron morale.

A "first" of more far-reaching importance and one which visibly heightened pilot morale was the setting-up of a Squadron rescue plane to standby ready for instant use. This move resulted from two Squadron experiences in which attempts to rescue pilots on rafts using available rescue facilities proved highly unsatisfactory. In one case the pilot, Lt. ALBERT C. SCHAFFLE, was lost (July History), and in the other case, Lt. DELP, the rescue of the pilot was seriously jeopardized by the Squadron's attempt to adhere to current rescue procedure directives. In order to avoid this problem in future instances of pilots down at sea the Squadron commander, Major HARRY E. McAFEE, outfitted a P-47 with a yellow belly-tank and a five-man life raft slung to the bomb shackles on each wing. This plane was to be available

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO #244. (CONT'D).

Narrative History of the 19th Fighter Squadron for the month of August 1944. (cont'd)

for instant duty. The plan was so well received by higher echelon that the Squadron was relieved of the necessity for keeping it always available. A 318th Fighter Group Operations Order now directs this duty to the squadron standing the daily alert, thus providing adequate and immediate aid to any 7th AAF pilot unfortunate enough to be forced down at sea.


This campaign has been notable because for the first time P-47 aircraft have been used exclusively for low altitude ground support work (Inclosure # 3). Designed primarily for high altitude escort and interception there has been no instance during the Marianas campaign when this type of work has been called for. Yet the performance record of this aircraft, as far as this Squadron is concerned, has been exceedingly high. Up to 31 August 1944 there was only one instance of a plane being out of commission because of "part" failure. Lack of a tail wheel yoke assembly grounded one plane from 26 August till 2 September. It is felt by the flying personnel that no other fighter plane could have undergone such rigorous usage these last 10 weeks and still achieve the maintenance record this Squadron has enjoyed.

The ground forces on Saipan and Tinian Islands have repeatedly praised the effectiveness of the P-47's eight .50 cal. machine guns. In numerous instances strafings of enemy troop concentrations have resulted in many enemy dead and immediate advancement of our troops. Accuracy in dive-bombing with 500 lb. G.P. bombs has averaged around 80%, which is considered excellent. However, in connection with the dive-bombing, the problem of hung-up bombs has been acute enough throughout the entire Group to warrant a changing of all bomb shackles from the B-10 to the B-7 type. Some of these hung-up bombs could not be jettisoned and had to be brought back. A serious accident involving a hung-up bomb which resulted in the death of the pilot of another squadron and serious shrapnel injury to T/Sgt. Wilbur Shows of the 19th Fighter Squadron brought about a cessation of all bombing by this Group until corrective measures could be taken. It is hoped that the obvious danger of bringing bombs back to the field will no longer be a problem with the installation of the new B-7 type bomb shackles.

As discussed in the July History, the use of rockets has been highly unsatisfactory in this Squadron and they were not used during August. However, the arrival of the new M-14 steel launchers to replace the old T-30 plastic launchers is evidence of the expected use of rockets in the near future. From all reports, the M-14 launchers will make considerable difference in the effective use of the rocket projectile.

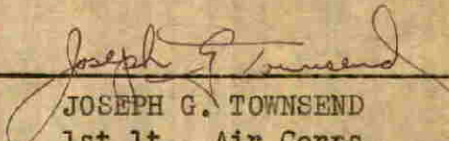
On 28 August 1944 Major HARRY E. McAFEE, Commanding Officer, was transferred to the 318th Fighter Group thus terminating a three year association with the 19th Fighter Squadron. He was replaced by Major De JACK WILLIAMS, formerly Operations Officer of the 73rd Fighter Squadron.

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO # 244. (CONT'D)


Narrative History of the 19th Fighter Squadron for the
month of August 1944. (cont'd.)

By the end of the month a total of 7 new pilots had been assigned to this Squadron. The fact that some of these pilots are not sufficiently trained for combat duty will mean that in the near future the Squadron will reinstitute a portion of the training program used so effectively on Oahu, T.H.

INCLOSURES: #1 - Newspaper Article - Honolulu Star Bulletin- 8/1/44
#2 - Seventh Air Force PRO release.
#3 - Newspaper Article - Honolulu Advertiser - 7/3/44.
Mission Reports # 8-1 to #8-27 incl.


JOSEPH G. TOWNSEND
1st Lt., Air Corps.

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
318TH FIGHTER GROUP
A.P.O. # 244

SUBJECT: Extract from Newspaper Article appearing in the HONOLULU
STAR BULLETIN, 1 August 1944.

"AMERICAN CAPTURE OF TINIAN IS NEAR"

Japanese Pockets On Beach

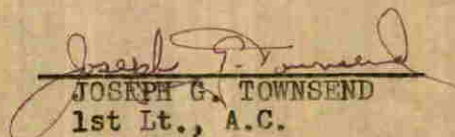
By ROY CUMMINGS

PEARL HARBOR, Aug. 1.

* * * * *

The 7th AAF headquarters disclosed that Major Harry E. McAfee, 27, of Piedmont, Cal., recorded his third "first" of the Marianas when he landed his Thunderbolt on Tinian's Ushi airfield on July 28, shortly after its capture. He had difficulty maneuvering around shell and bomb holes. He also was the first to land his Thunderbolt on Isely Field in Saipan and was the first AAF pilot over Tinian on D-Day when he directed landing forces to the beaches.

A TRUE EXTRACT COPY:


JOSEPH G. TOWNSEND
1st Lt., A.C.

Squadron History - August 1944

Inclosure # 1

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
 318TH FIGHTER GROUP
 A.P.O. # 244

SUBJECT: A newspaper "release" from Public Relations Office,
 Seventh Air Force.

A 7th AAF BASE IN THE MARIANAS: -- A one-man "beach-head" on Jap-held Pagan Island at the northern end of the Marianas chain was established August 2 by the 7th AAF and held for 40 minutes. Having met no resistance from the enemy, the single American troop retired in good order.

The purely accidental "invasion" of Pagan was made by Second Lieutenant John J. Delp, 26, of Mullens, West Virginia, pilot of a 7th AAF Thunderbolt fighter plane, after he was forced to parachute from the plane to save his life.

In addition to the 40 minutes on the Pagan beach, Delp spent 18 hours in a life raft before he was reached by a destroyer. His adventure followed a bombing and strafing attack on the Jap airfield at Pagan.

"I had just released my bombs when two Jap shells hit the belly of my plane," he said. "It began to smoke and one of the other pilots radioed me that I was on fire. The engine started cutting out and finally quit. I jumped at about 1,000 feet."

Delp landed in the ocean about 10 miles southeast of Pagan, slipped out of his parachute harness and inflated his one-man life raft. His fellow 7th AAF pilots went into action and soon led a transport plane to the spot to drop him a larger raft.

"They circled around a while and then took off," Delp said. "And, brother, that's when you begin to get that lonesome feeling."

It became dark and the raft drifted toward Pagan. Finally it scraped on the beach of the shore.

"I got out and sat on a rock for a while," he said. "I didn't try to explore what with it being night and my worrying about Japs and what to do next. Finally I decided the sea offered a better chance of rescue with less risk so I pushed off. I was there about 40 minutes."

Delp paddled away from Pagan. His only companion was a shark.

"He was about six feet long," the pilot said, "but he didn't bother me. He just hung around."

The next morning he watched search planes as they were looking for him some distance away. He also saw one Jap plane, which he hoped was not looking for him. When he set off his last smoke bomb to attract attention, one of the P-47's from his own Squadron spotted him and circled until he was picked up.

Delp is the son of Mrs. Effie Delp of Mullens, W. Va. Before joining the AAF in May 1942, he worked for the Lanark Coat Co. at Mount Hope, W. Va.

Squadron History - August 1944.
 A TRUE COPY:

Inclosure # 2

Joseph G. Townsend
 JOSEPH G. TOWNSEND
 1st Lt., A.C.

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
318TH FIGHTER GROUP
A.P.O. # 244

SUBJECT: Newspaper Article from the Honolulu Advertiser, Honolulu, T.H.
3 July 1944.

"THUNDERBOLTS IN ACTION ON SAIPAN"

A 7TH AAF FIGHTER BASE IN THE MARIANAS, July 3. - Going into action for the first time in the central Pacific, P-47s of the 7th AAF fighter command joined the battle against Japanese ground positions on Saipan in low-level strafing attacks within eight hours after their landing at captured Aslito airfield.

Since then the Thunderbolt fighters have been engaged in pinning down the dwindling Japanese force with strafing and bombing attacks.

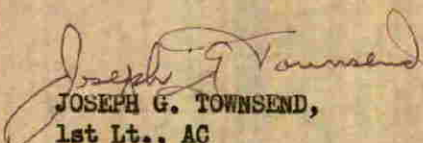
In one attack on Rota the Japanese airfield was bombed and strafed with rocket gun and machinegun fire. Two Japanese planes, identified as single engine bombers, were destroyed on the ground. Japanese fire, mostly from small arms and machineguns, proved ineffective against the Thunderbolts and all returned from the mission.

The captured airfield on Saipan, renamed Isely Field by the American forces, became the base for the Thunderbolts on the eighth day after the first beachhead was established. It was operational three days after the field was secured and the P-47s flew in, led by Maj. Harry E. McAfee, Piedmont, Cal.

The landing was made at 9 a.m. and by 5 p.m. of the same day the P-47s took to the air again to hit gun positions and other Japanese strongholds which were holding up the advance of the ground troops.

Since first going into action the Thunderbolts have made at least one mission against the Japanese each day, most of them of the low-level variety with strafing from the rocket and machine guns.

A TRUE COPY:


JOSEPH G. TOWNSEND,
1st Lt., AC

August History - 1944
Inclosure # 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, RAF
A.P.O. # 244

1 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-1
GROUP MISSION #8-2

1. A. 4 P-47D'S
B. NONE
 2. A. NONE
B. NONE
 3. STRAFE TARGET AREA 503 L,M,Q,R,W,X, TINIAN ISLAND.
 4. LTS. JACOBSON, MARCINKO, KENDALL, RHODY (BLUEGRASS 7)
- TAKEOFF: 0558 - LAND: 0720

LT RHODY (BLUEGRASS 7-4) DID NOT TAKE OFF DUE TO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTY. AFTER ARRIVING ON STATION AT PT. WILLIAM, CHEROKEE CONTROL ASSIGNED FLIGHT TO STRAFE WOODED AREA 503 L,M, Q,R,W,X, TINIAN ISLAND. TIME OVER TARGET 0605.

EIGHT STRAFING ATTACKS WERE MADE ON THE TARGET FROM NW TO SE AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE. PILOTS COULD NOT OBSERVE ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE AREA DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE AREA IS HEAVILY WOODED.

NO A/A FIRE RECEIVED.

AFTER STRAFING ATTACKS CHEROKEE ASKED FLIGHT TO OBSERVE AREAS 517, 511 & 508 FOR ENEMY ACTIVITY. NO ENEMY ACTIVITY OBSERVED.

5. A. 5/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 3,900 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G. - 600 GALS. GAS
8. NONE

MCAFEE

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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON ,AAF
A.P.O. # 244

1 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-2
GROUP MISSION #8-3

1. A. 4 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. STRAFE TARGET AREAS 518 E,K,P,T,U - 512 G,H, TINIAN IS.
4. CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, GRAY, ELENDER (BLUEGRASS 6)
TAKEOFF: 0724 - LAND: 0900

BLUEGRASS 6 RENDEZVOUSED WITH 4 PLANES VIOLET 30 AT PT. EASY AT 0730. VIOLET 30 CARRIED 8 X 165 GAL. FIRE BOMBS AS ARMAMENT, - BLUEGRASS 6, NORMAL .50 CAL. LOAD. BLUEGRASS 6 MADE FIVE STRAFING ATTACKS ON THE WOODED RIDGE IN THE TARGET AREA. AFTER THE FIRST PASS VIOLET 30 DROPPED 4 FIRE BOMBS IN AREA 518 K,P,U, AND AFTER THE SECOND STRAFING PASS VIOLET 30 DROPPED 4 BOMBS IN AREA 512 G,H,D. AFTER DROPPING THEIR FIRE BOMBS, VIOLET 30 MADE TWO STRAFING PASSES WITH BLUEGRASS 6. DURING THE LAST PASS A RED FLARE WAS FIRED FROM THE GROUND BY THE GROUND FORCES. BLUEGRASS 6 LEADER ORDERED VIOLET 30-4 TO CEASE FIRING, THAT HIS FIRE WAS GOING INTO AREA 517 E & J. CHEROKEE INFORMED FLIGHTS THAT THE FIRE WAS JUST A LITTLE TOO CLOSE TO OUR LINES, BUT IT DID NOT GO OVER INTO THEM. ALTHOUGH A CONCENTRATION OF ENEMY TROOPS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE TARGET AREA THEY WERE UNOBSERVED BY THE PILOTS DUE TO THE HEAVY UNDERGROWTH AND WOODS IN THE AREA. NO A/A FIRE OBSERVED.

5. A. SOLID OVERCAST AT 2,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 5,800 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G. - 600 GALS. GAS
8. OBSERVED NUMEROUS CAVES IN THE TARGET AREA.

MCAFFEE

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

2 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-3
GROUP MISSION #8-10

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. ONE (1) P-47D
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB AND STRAFE ENEMY INSTALLATIONS AND RUNWAY AT PAGAN AIRSTRIP, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR MCAFEE, LTS. DELP, STAMPE, LUSTIC (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. VOGT, LTS. DECHARY, LOFLIN, DUNNING (VIOLET 4)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, GRAY, ELENDR (VIOLET 6)
LTS. JACOBSON, MARCINKO, KENDALL, RHODY (VIOLET 7)

TAKEDOFF: 1350 - LAND: (SEE NARRATIVE)

FLIGHTS OVER THE TARGET AT 1445. VIOLET 6 & 7 MADE A STRAFING RUN FROM THE NORTH EAST ACROSS THE AIRSTRIP AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE, SPEED 350 M.P.H.

SEVEN PLANES VIOLET 1 & 4 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED THE STRAFING ATTACK FROM THE NORTH EAST AND DROPPED 14 X 500 LB. BOMBS ON THE TARGET. FIVE BOMBS LANDED IN HOUSING AREA NORTH OF THE FIELD, THREE ON NORTH TAXI STRIP, TWO ON RUNWAY, TWO ON TAXI STRIP SOUTH OF RUNWAY. ONE BOMB DROPPED IN THE WATER WHEN PILOT ATTEMPTED TO RELEASE BELLY TANK. VIOLET 1-4 WHILE MAKING HIS BOMB RUN OBSERVED A TWIN ENGINE PLANE ON THE TAXI STRIP JUST NORTH OF THE CENTER OF THE RUNWAY. HE STRAFED THE PLANE WHILE ON HIS RUN AND OBSERVED TRACERS ENTER THE AIRCRAFT. IMMEDIATELY AFTER HE CEASED FIRE HE DROPPED BOTH HIS BOMBS IN THE AREA. PILOT DID NOT OBSERVE WHETHER HIS BOMBS HIT THE PLANE OR NOT.

MODERATE HEAVY A/A FIRE AND MODERATE LIGHT A/A FIRE OBSERVED TO EMANATE FROM THE TARGET AREA. A/A BURSTS OBSERVED AT 5,000 TO 8,000 FEET.

WHILE OVER THE TARGET VIOLET 1-2 WAS HIT BY A/A FIRE, AT 4,000 FEET. IT APPEARED THAT HIS OIL COOLER WAS HIT AS HE WAS LOSING OIL FAST. HE BEGAN LOSING ALTITUDE AND WAS OBSERVED TO BAIL OUT AND LAND IN THE WATER 10-15 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN ON A BEARING OF 330 DEGREES FROM ALAMAGAN ISLAND. VIOLET 1 LEADER CALLED VIOLET 6 LEADER AND ORDERED HIM UP TO 10,000 FEET TO MAKE CONTACT WITH LONDON CONTROL. VIOLET 6 COULD NOT HEAR VIOLET 1 LEADER. VIOLET 4 THEN IMMEDIATELY CLIMBED TO 10,000 FEET AND TWO SHIPS STAYED ON "B" BAND AND TWO SWITCHED TO "D" BAND. COULD NOT CONTACT LONDON CONTROL BUT DID CONTACT MAJOR HUSSY, 73RD SQUADRON, THEN ON C.A.P. OVER SAIPAN. HE RELAYED MESSAGE TO LONDON CONTROL. VIOLET 4 LEADER ALSO TURNED ON HIS EMERGENCY IFF OVER THE AREA WHERE PILOT WENT DOWN, SO THAT CONTROL COULD GET A FIX. AFTER GETTING THE FIX CONTROL ASKED WHY THE FIX WAS RECEIVED.

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

2 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-3
GROUP MISSION #8-1

(CONTINUED)

4. CONT'D.

VIOLET 1 LEADER ORDERED VIOLET 1-3, 1-4, VIOLET 6 AND VIOLET 7 TO RETURN TO BASE. FLIGHTS LANDED AT 1600. MEANWHILE VIOLET 1 LEADER AND THREE PLANES VIOLET 4 REMAINED IN THE AREA, ORBITING PILOT DOWN AT SEA. WHILE FLIGHT WAS ORBITING THEY OBSERVED LT. DELP GET ABOARD HIS LIFE RAFT AND HE SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE. VIOLET 4-3 AND 4-4 RETURNED TO BASE AND PANCAKED AT 1643. VIOLET 1 LEADER AND VIOLET 4 LEADER REMAINED IN THE AREA UNTIL 1633 WHEN THEY RETURNED TO BASE PANCAKING AT 1735.

5. A. 8/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,000-8,000 FEET.
B. COULD NOT CONTACT LONDON CONTROL FROM VICINITY OF PAGAN ISLAND.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 14 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/025 SEC. DELAY FUSE, 6,400 RDS. .50 CAL. AMMUNITION, 5,250 GALS. GAS.
8. WHEN LONDON CONTROL WAS FINALLY INFORMED AS TO JUST WHAT HAD HAPPENED AT PAGAN, THEY INFORMED SQUADRON THAT A PBM WOULD BE DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE. HOWEVER, THE SQDN. WAS THEN INFORMED THAT THE SEA ON THE LEE SIDE OF SAIPAN WAS TOO ROUGH FOR THE PBM TO TAKEOFF AND THAT A DD WOULD PROCEED TO THE AREA TO PICK UP THE PILOT. ARRANGEMENTS WERE ALSO MADE FOR A C-48 TO DROP A LARGE LIFE RAFT EQUIPPED WITH A GIBSON GIRL, TO THE PILOT. THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION CONCERNING THE RESCUE OF THE PILOT, WHICH IS CAUSING THE SQUADRON PILOTS TO DOUBT WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A RESCUE SERVICE. THE WEST END OF THE PAGAN AIRSTRIP APPEARED WELL CRATERED, HOWEVER THEY MIGHT POSSIBLY GET FIGHTERS OFF OF THE EAST END. THREE LANDING CRAFT, ONE OF WHICH WAS SUNK. THE OTHERS THE PILOTS COULD NOT STATE THEIR CONDITION, OBSERVED IN SHOMUSHON BAY.

MCAFFEE

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A.P.O.#244

2 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-4
GROUP MISSION #8-7

1. A. THREE (3) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. ORBIT PILOT DOWN AT SEA 10-15 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. JACOBSON, ANDERSON (VIOLET 6)

THREE PLANES VIOLET 6 TOOK OFF EAST FIELD SAIPAN TO ORBIT
LT. DELP DOWN AT SEA 10-15 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN ISLAND, ON A
HEADING OF 330 DEGREES FROM ALAMAGAN ISLAND.

FLIGHT ARRIVED 10 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN AT 1655. LT. DELP
FIRED A TRACER FROM HIS LIFE RAFT AND FLIGHT WAS ABLE TO LOCATE
HIM WITH EASE, HOWEVER HAD HE NOT FIRED IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
DIFFICULT TO FIND HIM DUE TO THE HEAVY SEAS.

FLIGHT OBSERVED THAT THE RAFT SEEMED TO BE DRIFTING NORTH WEST
WIND VELOCITY APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 5-8 KNOTS AN HOUR FROM THE
SOUTH EAST.

AT 1800 A C-46 TRANSPORT WITH AN ESCORT OF EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
ARRIVED IN THE AREA. LT. DELP DROPPED GREEN SEA MARKER FOR THE
C-46, AND AFTER FLIGHT WAS SURE THAT THE TRANSPORT AND ITS ESCORT
HAD OBSERVED THE PILOT, VIOLET 6 RETURNED TO BASE AND PANGAKED
AT 1925.

5. A. 6/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 900 GALLONS GAS.
8. OBSERVED SEA MINES 5 MILES SOUTH OF ANATAHAN AT 1635.

MOAFEE

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

2 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-5
GROUP MISSION #8-7

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. ESCORT C-46 ON RESCUE MISSION PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. FLAGERMAN, STAMPE, DUNN (VIOLET 3)

TAKEOFF: 1700 - LAND: 2000

FLIGHT RENDEZVOUSED WITH FOUR (4) P-47'S OF THE 333RD SQUADRON AND C-46 OVER ISELY FIELD AT 1720 AND PROCEEDED TO PAGAN ISLAND.

C-46 AND ITS ESCORT LOCATED LT. DELP AT 1800 SIX (6) MILES ON A BEARING OF 190 DEGREES FROM THE SOUTH TIP OF PAGAN. PILOT SEEMED TO BE DRIFTING TOWARD PAGAN ISLAND.

C-46 DROPPED LARGE LIFE RAFT TO LT. DELP WHO WAS SEEN TO INFLATE THE LARGE RAFT AND THEN LASH BOTH RAFTS TOGETHER. THE LARGE RAFT WAS WELL EQUIPPED WITH A GIBSON GIRL AND SUPPLIES. PILOT APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE AND IN GOOD SPIRITS AS HE FREQUENTLY WAVED TO THE PLANES OVERHEAD INDICATING THAT THINGS WERE FINE.

C-46 AND ESCORT MAINTAINED RADIO COMMUNICATIONS WITH TWO (2) P-47'S WHO WERE ON STATION 50-75 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN AT 10,000 FEET. MESSAGES WERE RELAYED THROUGH THE P-47'S ON STATION TO LONDON CONTROL.

C-46 REPORTED IN AT 1820 THAT MISSION WAS COMPLETED AND FLIGHT WAS RETURNING TO BASE.

5. A. 7/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,000 FEET
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 960 GALLONS GAS.
8. EXCELLENT JOB OF DROPPING RAFT TO PILOT BY C-46. LT. DELP HAD NO TROUBLE AT ALL GETTING THE RAFT. RESCUE OPERATIONS CONTINUING BY DESTROYER THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT, WILL CONTINUE DAYLIGHT BY AIR.

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A.P.O. #244

2 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-6
GROUP MISSION #8-11

1. A. TWO (2) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. RELAY RADIO COMMUNICATIONS TO LONDON CONTROL FROM RESCUE PLANES AT PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. MOHR, LT. DECHARY (VIOLET 5)

TAKEOFF: 1730 - LAND: 1900

FLIGHT PROCEEDED ON A HEADING OF 0 DEGREES TO A POINT FIFTY (50) MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN WHERE THEY ORBITED AT 10,000 FEET. THE PURPOSE OF THE MISSION WAS TO RELAY ANY MESSAGES THAT MIGHT COME FROM THE RESCUE PLANES ATTEMPTING TO DROP A RUBBER RAFT DOWN SOUTH WEST PAGAN ISLAND.

AT 1800 MESSAGE FROM VIOLET 3 RECEIVED STATING THAT THE C-46 AND ITS ESCORT WERE CIRCLING LT. DELP. THIS MESSAGE RELAYED TO LONDON CONTROL.

CAPT. MOHR AGAIN HEARD VIOLET 3 CALL BUT COULD NOT HEAR HIM VERY WELL. VIOLET 5 FLEW NORTH ANOTHER 25 MILES AND AT 1820 RECEIVED THE MESSAGE THAT THE MISSION HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

LONDON CONTROL THEN ORDERED FLIGHT TO RETURN TO BASE.

5. A. 6/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,500 FEET.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR
6. NONE
7. 300 GALLONS GAS.
8. NONE

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3 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-7
GROUP MISSION #6-7

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY TROOPS CONCENTRATED IN TARGET AREA 816F GUAM.
4. CAPT. GUINNEE, LTS. ANGELLE, GRAY, ELENDER (VIOLET 2)
LTS. RUFF, BARRETT, KENDLE, BACH (VIOLET 8)

TAKEOFF: 1820 - LAND: 1934

SIX (6) P-47D'S CARRIED 2 X 500/ BOMBS. VIOLET 8-3 EQUIPPED WITH YELLOW BELLY TANK AND LARGE RUBBER LIFE RAFT. VIOLET 8-3 AND 8-4 WERE TO ORBIT FIVE (5) MILES NORTH OF GUAM AT 2,000 FEET AND BE PREPARED TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO ANY PILOT FORCED DOWN AT SEA.

FLIGHTS ON STATION AT 1707. BAREBACK WAS CONTROL. CONTROL ORDERED FLIGHTS TO DROP ALL BOMBS ON REPORTED ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATION IN HEAVILY WOODED AREA, TARGET AREA 816F.

BOMB RUN WAS MADE FROM SOUTH TO NORTH, 8,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 2,000. ELEVEN BOMBS EXPLODED ON TARGET AREA 816F ONE BOMB OVERSHOT AND LANDED IN AREA 831R.

WHILE MAKING BOMB RUN LT. BARRETT (VIOLET 8-2) REPORTED TO FLIGHT LEADER THAT HE BELIEVED HE WAS HIT AND COULD NOT MAKE IT BACK TO BASE, BUT COULD LAND AT OROTE POINT FIELD, GUAM. FLIGHT OBSERVED PLANE LAND, AND TAXI TO PARKING AREA.

ALTHOUGH LT. BARRETT SAID HE BELIEVED HE WAS HIT AS HIS ENGINE WAS ACTING UP, REMAINDER OF FLIGHT DID NOT OBSERVE ANY A/A FIRE.

5. A. 2/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 1,000 FEET OVER TARGET.
B. POOR - VIOLET 2-1, 2-2 HAD RADIO TROUBLE.
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 12 X 500/ G.P. BOMBS W/.025 SEC DELAY FUSE. 1,600 GALLONS GAS.
8. INTERCEPTED RADIO MESSAGE FROM FALCON BASE (OROTE FIELD) TO CONGO (G.A.S.) P-47 THAT LANDED AT OROTE FIELD WILL NEED ENGINE CHANGE. OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE TWO WELL CAMOUFLAGED RUNWAYS RUNNING EAST TO WEST IN AREAS 732 & 733; 682 & 683 GUAM.

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A.P.O. # 244

3 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-8
GROUP MISSION #8-12

1. A. 6 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. SEARCH FOR PILOT DOWN AT SEA 10-15 MILES ON A BEARING OF 190 DEGREES FROM SOUTH TIP OF PAGAN ISLAND SINCE 1500 2ND AUG., 1944.
4. CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, GRAY, ELENDR (VIOLET 8)
LTS. RUFF, KENDLE (VIOLET 8)

TAKEOFF: 1029 - LAND: 1229

FLIGHT ARRIVED AT PAGAN AT 1100 TO RELIEVE VIOLET 3 & 5 ON SEARCH FOR LT. DELP. VIOLET 3 LEADER INFORMED VIOLET 8 LEADER THAT THE MISSION WAS COMPLETE AND THAT HE SHOULD RETURN TO BASE.
FLIGHT ORBITED THE AREA AND THEN RETURNED TO BASE AS INSTRUCTED.

5. A. 4/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 3,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 960 GALLONS GAS
8. NONE

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

3 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-9
GROUP MISSION 8-13

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. SEARCH FOR PILOT DOWN AT SEA 10-15 MILES ON A BEARING 180 DEGREES SOUTH TIP OF PAGAN ISLAND, SINCE 1500 2 AUGUST 1944.
4. MAJOR MCAFEE, LTS. MARGINKO, STAMPE, LUSTIG (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. VOGT, LTS. DECHARY, LOFLIN, DUNNING (VIOLET 4)

TAKEOFF: 0540 - LAND: 0920

VIOLET 1 SEARCHED AREA BETWEEN PAGAN AND ALAMAGAN, ORBITED ALAMAGAN THEN FLEW VECTOR OF 0 DEGREES AND CIRCLED PAGAN, AFTER CAREFULLY SEARCHING THE BEACHES AND CAVES AT PAGAN, FLIGHT FLEW DUE WEST TEN (10) MILES THEN SOUTH EAST TO ALAMAGAN.

VIOLET 4 CIRCLED PAGAN AND THEN FROM A POINT FOUR (4) MILES EAST OF PAGAN TO A HEADING OF 0 DEGREES AND CONTINUED ON TO AGRIHAN, CIRCLED AGRIHAN AND THEN FLEW WEST FROM AGRIHAN ABOUT TWO (2) MILES TURNING SOUTH AND RETURNING TO PAGAN. AFTER FLIGHT REACHED PAGAN THEY AGAIN FLEW NORTH TO AGRIHAN COVERING AN AREA APPROXIMATELY TEN (10) MILES WEST OF A LINE DOWN THROUGH THE CENTER OF PAGAN AND AGRIHAN ISLANDS. ALTITUDE DURING SEARCH SEA LEVEL TO 200 FEET.

PILOTS OBSERVED DRIFT TO BE ON A BEARING OF 345 DEGREES WITH WIND VELOCITY AT FIVE (5) MPH FROM THE SOUTH EAST.

LT. DELP COULD NOT BE LOCATED DURING THIS SEARCH.

5. A. 5/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,500 FEET
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 2,400 GALLONS GAS
8. TWO (2) F4U'S (NIGHT FIGHTERS) IN THE AREA WHEN FLIGHT ARRIVED AT SCENE AT 0805. SIGHTED DD AND ASKED HIM TO RUN UP RED AND WHITE FLAG IF HE COULD RECEIVE VIOLET 1 AND BLUE AND WHITE IF HE HAD PICKED UP PILOT. DD WAS SIX MILES SOUTH WEST OF PAGAN. CALLED DD ON ALL BANDS BUT OBSERVED NO ANSWERING FLAGS.

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318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF
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3 AUGUST 1944

18TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-10
GROUP MISSION 8-14

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. SEARCH FOR PILOT DOWN AT SEA 10-15 MILES ON A BEARING OF 190 DEGREES FROM SOUTH TIP OF PAGAN ISLAND SINCE 1500 2 AUGUST 1944.
4. LTS. JACOBSON, BACH, KENDALL RHODY (VIOLET 7)

TAKEOFF: 0707 - LAND: 1100

FLIGHT ARRIVED AT ALAMAGAN AT 0800. SEARCHED AS AREA FROM TEN (10) MILES NORTH OF ALAMAGAN TO PAGAN TO TEN (10) MILES NORTH NORTH WEST OF PAGAN, THEN TWENTY (20) MILES WEST WHERE FLIGHT TURNED AND FLEW VECTOR OF 150 DEGREES TO A POINT TEN (10) MILES WEST OF ALAMAGAN.

OBSERVED DD CRUISING ALTERNATELY NORTH-SOUTH (340-160 DEGREES) ABOUT 10-15 MILES WEST OF PAGAN AT 0900.

MISSION UNSUCCESSFUL, NO TRACE OF THE MISSING PILOT.

5. A. 4/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 4,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 1,400 GALLONS GAS.
8. FLIGHT RECEIVED ON STATION AT 0949 BY VIOLET 3&S.
SEARCH CONTINUES.

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

3 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-11
GROUP MISSION #8-15

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. SEARCH FOR PILOT DOWN AT SEA 10-15 MILES ON A BEARING 190 DEGREES SOUTH TIP OF PAGAN ISLAND SINCE 1500 2 AUGUST 1944.
4. CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. COX, MALONE, SHAFFER (VIOLET 3)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. ANDERSON, LIEBGOTT, DOHERTY (VIOLET 5)

TAKEOFF: 0845 - LAND: 1220

VIOLET 3-3 DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE AND RETURNED TO BASE WITH VIOLET 3-4 PANCAKING AT 0955 K.

FLIGHTS REACHED PAGAN AND STARTED SEARCH AT 0945. WHILE SEARCHING AREA WEST AND NORTH OF PAGAN FLIGHTS OBSERVED SMOKE ON A BEARING OF 340 DEGREES ABOUT 20-25 MILES FROM THE SOUTHERN TIP OF PAGAN.

BOTH FLIGHTS FLEW ON VECTOR TO THE SPOT AND OBSERVED LIFE RAFT. LT. DELP SIGNALLED PLANES WITH FLAG AND APPEARED TO BE WELL. VIOLET 5 ORBITED THE RAFT WHILE VIOLET 3 TRIED TO CONTACT DUMBOS THAT WERE IN THE AREA. HE CALLED ON ALL RADIO BANDS AND FAILED. VIOLET 3 MADE VISUAL CONTACT WITH BOTH PBY AND PBM IN THE AREA. HE CIROLED BOTH PLANES TRYING TO GET THEM TO FOLLOW. PBY LAST OBSERVED ON COURSE 040 DEGREES. PBM FLEW OVER RAFT BUT DID NOT MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO ORBIT AND GIVE WHAT ASSISTANCE HE COULD RENDER.

VIOLET 3 THEN PICKED UP DD ABOUT SIX (6) MILES SOUTH WEST OF PAGAN. ALTHOUGH NO RADIO CONTACT WAS POSSIBLE THE DD RESPONDED TO VISUAL SIGNAL AND FOLLOWED AIRCRAFT TO THE POSITION OF THE LIFE RAFT.

PLANES REMAINED IN THE AREA UNTIL 1100 AT WHICH TIME THE DESTROYER WAS PREPARING TO HOIST THE PILOT AND LIFE RAFT ABOARD.

AS FLIGHTS WERE PREPARING TO LEAVE THE AREA SIX (6) P-47D'S OF VIOLET 6 & 8 ARRIVED ON THE SCENE TO RELIEVE VIOLET 3&5. VIOLET 3 INFORMED VIOLET 6 THAT MISSION WAS COMPLETE AND HE COULD RETURN TO BASE.

5. A. 4/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 3,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 2,400 GALLONS GAS.
8. DD, LITTLE BIG HORN, DID AN EXCELLENT JOB. PLANES HAD ABSOLUTELY NO TROUBLE MAKING DESTROYER PERSONNEL UNDERSTAND WHAT THE SITUATION WAS. DD IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO SCENE UNDER FULL POWER.

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315TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF
A.P.O. #244

4 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-12
GROUP MISSION #8-17

1. A. TWELVE (12) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY TROOP ACTIVITY IN AREAS 723B,C,D,G,H,I,Q,R,S
L,M,N, GUAM.
4. MAJOR MCAFEE, LTS. JACOBSON, KENDALL, RHODY (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. GUINLEE, LTS. DUNN, FLAGERMAN, DANYLO (VIOLET 2)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. ANDERSON, LIEBGOTT, DOHERTY (VIOLET 5)

TAKEOFF: 0800 - LAND: 1015

FLIGHTS ARRIVED ON STATION AT POINT QUEEN AT 0835. ASSIGNED TARGET BY BAREBACK CONTROL. OVER TARGET AT 0845. TWO BOMB RUNS WERE MADE FROM 8,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 2,000 FEET. ONE FROM 240 DEGREES AND THE OTHER FROM SOUTH TO NORTH. TWO BOMBS MISSED THE TARGET AND EXPLODED IN AREA 722R. ALL OTHER BOMBS HIT THE TARGET AREA. THE TARGET WAS VERY HEAVILY WOODED AND PILOTS COULD NOT OBSERVE ANY ENEMY. NO A/A FIRE OBSERVED.

VIOLET 1-1 AND 1-2 LANDED AT OROTE POINT FIELD AT 0945 TO INSPECT EXTENT OF DAMAGE TO LT. BARNETTS PLANE WHICH MADE A FORCED LANDING THERE 3 AUGUST 1944. FLIGHT THEN TOOK OFF AT 1000 FROM GUAM AND RETURNED TO BASE, LANDED AT 1050. RUNWAY AT OROTE POINT A LITTLE ROUGH, BUT VERY WIDE AND HAS A GOOD BREEZE BLOWING RIGHT DOWN THE CENTER.

5. A. 7/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 1500 FEET
B. GOOD
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 24 X 500# G.P. BOMBS W/.025 SEC. DELAY FUSE, 2,700 GALLONS GAS.
8. TOO MUCH RADIO CHATTER BETWEEN VIOLET AND BLUEGRASS TOWERS, RECOMMEND THEY STAY OFF THE AIR WHEN PLANES ARE LANDING. ROTA RUNWAY APPEARS UNSERVICEABLE.

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A.P.O. # 24419TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-13
GROUP MISSION # 8-22

5 AUGUST 1944

1. A. TWELVE (12) P-47D'S
B. NONE
 2. A. NONE
B. NONE
 3. DIVE-BOMB ENEMY TROOP CONCENTRATION IN AREA 816-I, O, AND 817K, L, M, N, GUAM.
 4. CAPT. GUINNEE, LTS. DUNN, FLAGERMAN, DANYLO. (VIOLET 2)
CAPT. VOGT, LTS. DECHARY, LOFLIN, DUNNING. (VIOLET 4)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, GRAY, ELENDER. (VIOLET 6)
- TAKEOFF: 1537 - LAND: 1732

FLIGHTS RENDEZVOUSED WITH EIGHT (8) PLANES OF THE 333RD SQDN OVER EAST FIELD UPON TAKEOFF AND PROCEEDED TO GUAM. ON STATION AT GUAM 1608. OVER TARGET 1612. OBSERVED 4-6 SMALL FRAME BUILDINGS IN TARGET AREA. TARGET HEAVILY WOODED.

AFTER 333RD FLIGHTS HAD DROPPED THEIR FIRE BOMBS, VIOLET 2, 4, 6, MADE THEIR BOMB RUNS FROM EAST TO WEST, ALTITUDE 7,000 FEET, BOMB RELEASE AT 1,500 FEET. 22 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE TARGET AREA. ONE OF THESE OBSERVED TO HIT SMALL BUILDING IN AREA 817N. ONE BOMB LANDED SHORT IN AREA 816Q, AND ONE LONG IN AREA 816Q.

WHILE MAKING BOMB RUN VIOLET 4-1 STRAFED AND SET ON FIRE A SMALL FRAME BUILDING IN AREA 816Q. NO A/A OBSERVED.

5. A. OBSERVED FRONT OVER SOUTH END OF GUAM. 10/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 8,500 FEET OVER TARGET. SQUALL SOUTHWEST OF TINIAN.
B. GOOD.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 24 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/.025 SEC. DELAY FUZES. - 2400 GALLONS GAS. 250 ROUNDS .50 CAL. AMMUNITION.
8. OBSERVED B-25 THAT HAD CRASHED IN AREA 831-O BURNING INTENSELY. IT APPEARED FROM THE AIR THAT THE FIRE-BOMBS DROPPED BY THE 333RD SQDN WERE SKIPPING ALONG TREE TOPS. THEY DID NOT EXPLODE UPON CONTACT WITH THE TREE TOPS BUT BOUNCED ALONG ON THE TOPS.
OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A HEAVY GUN EMPLACEMENT IN AREA 817C OR D.
THREE TO FIVE ENEMY TROOPS OBSERVED MOVING EAST ALONG ROAD IN AREA 890K.

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A.P.O. # 24419TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-14
GROUP MISSION # 8-23

5 AUGUST 1944

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. ESCORT 16 PLANES OF THE 333RD SQUADRON ON DIVE-BOMB MISSION - PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR MCAFEE, LTS. BYRAM, STAMPE, LUSTIG. (VIOLET 1)
LTS. JACOBSON, MALONE, KENDALL, RHODY. (VIOLET 7)

TAKEOFF: 1302 - LAND: 1520

VIOLET 1-1 AND 1-2 RETURNED TO BASE AFTER VIOLET 1-2 DEVELOPED ENGINE TROUBLE TEN MILES NORTH OF GUGUAN ISLAND; PANCAKED AT 1500. 2 P-47D'S OF THE 333RD SQDN RETURNED TO BASE PRIOR TO REACHING TARGET. 333RD SQUADRON FLEW TO PAGAN ON COURSE AT 11,000 FEET, WHILE VIOLET 1 AND 7 HELD HIGH COVER POSITION AT 13,000 FEET.

FLIGHTS BEGAN LETTING DOWN 5 MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN. OVER TARGET AT 1410. VIOLET 1 AND 7 MADE ONE STRAFING PASS ON THE TARGET PRIOR TO DIVE-BOMB RUN OF 333RD SQDN. STRAFING ATTACK MADE AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE FROM EAST TO WEST.

FLIGHTS STRAFED CLIFFS SOUTH OF RUNWAY AND TAXI-STRIP SOUTH OF RUNWAY. OBSERVED 2 POSSIBLY 3 SINGLE ENGINE ENEMY AIRCRAFT NEAR SOUTH WEST END OF SOUTH TAXI-STRIP. APPEARED NON-OPERATIONAL.

NO A/A OBSERVED. PILOTS COULD NOT SAY WHETHER OR NOT RUNWAY SERVICEABLE.

5. A. 8/10-CLOUD COVERAGE - BASE 1,000 FEET - TOPS AT 10,000 FEET OVER TARGET. ENROUTE 5/10 COVERAGE - 1,000 FEET UP TO 10,000 FEET/ FRONT ENCOUNTERED BY VIOLET 1-1 AND 1-2 ON RETURN TO BASE, 10 MILES NORTH OF MARPI POINT AND EXTENDING TO AGUIJAN ISLAND.
B. COMMUNICATIONS POOR.
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 2,900 ROUNDS .50 CAL. AMMO. - 1920 GALLONS GAS.
8. COULD NOT OBSERVE BOMB HITS BY 333RD SQDN DUE TO LOW CLOUD COVER.

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8 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-15
GROUP MISSION #8-35

1. A. TWENTY (20) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ROTA AIRSTRIP, ROTA ISLAND.
4. MAJOR MCAFEE, CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LTS. PETTY, MARGINKO (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. VOGT, LTS. BYRAM, FLAGERMAN, DANYLO (VIOLET 4)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. BARRETT, LIEBGOTT, SBAFFER (VIOLET 5)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, MALONE, ELENDER (VIOLET 6)
LTS. JACOBSON, MATHIS, COX, RHODY (VIOLET 7)

TAKEOFF: 1513 - LAND: 1630

IMMEDIATELY AFTER ALL FLIGHTS HAD BECOME AIRBORNE, VIOLET 1-1 WAS INFORMED BY LONDON CONTROL THAT HE WAS TO DIVE BOMB THE ENEMY AIRSTRIP AT ROTA ISLAND INSTEAD OF THE AIR SUPPORT MISSION AT GUAM AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

TIME OVER TARGET 1800K. ALL FLIGHTS MADE THEIR DIVE BOMB RUN FROM EAST TO WEST, FROM 6,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 1,000 TO 1,500 FEET AT 15-20 DEGREES ANGLE.

28 X 500# BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE AND BLANKET THE RUNWAY. ONE BOMB LANDED IN AREA 207N, AND ONE IN 207T, ONE IN 207P, AND FOUR WERE UNOBSERVED.

MEAGRE INACCURATE MG FIRE RECEIVED FROM AREA 191E. RUNWAY APPEARED NON-OPERATIONAL PRIOR TO DIVE BOMB RUN. ONE (1) P-47D SLIGHTLY DAMAGED BY BOMB FRAGMENTS.

5. A. 9/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 1800 FEET OVER TARGET.
B. GOOD
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 36 X 500# G.P. BOMBS W/.025 SEC. DELAY FUSE. 3,000 GALLONS GAS/
8. ONLY EIGHTEEN (18) PLANES CARRIED BOMBS, VIOLET 7-3 AND 7-4 CARRIED TWO FIVE MAN LIFE RAFTS TO RENDER AID TO ANY PILOT FORCED DOWN AT SEA. THIS ELEMENT ORBITED OFF ROTA UNTIL COMPLETION OF MISSION.
ALTHOUGH LONDON CONTROL DID NOT INDICATE WHY MISSION HAD BEEN CHANGED TO ROTA INSTEAD OF GUAM, IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE WEATHER SOUTH OF ROTA WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHANGE.

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A.P.O. # 244

12 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-16
GROUP MISSION #8-37

1. A. 24 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY A/A GUN DEFENSES ROTA AIRSTRIP.
4. MAJ. MCAFEE, LTS. DELP, STAMPE, LUSTIG (VIOLET 1)
LTS. RUFF, BARRETT, KENDLE, COX (VIOLET 8)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. ANDERSON, LIEBOTT, DOHERTY (VIOLET 5)
CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. STROUD, MALONE, SHAFFER (VIOLET 3)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ELENDER, GRAY, ANGELLE, (VIOLET 6)
LTS. LOFLIN, BYRAM, PETTY, MARGINKO (VIOLET 10)

TAKEOFF: 0930 - LAND: 1136

LT. PETTY, VIOLET 10-3, DID NOT TAKE OFF DUE TO MECHANICAL TROUBLE.

FLIGHTS OVER TARGET AT 1012K. TWO BOMB RUNS WERE MADE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH. PLANES STARTED THEIR DIVE AT 7,000 FT. WITH BOMB RELEASE AT 1,500 -2,000 FT. ALTHOUGH NO DIRECT HITS WERE OBSERVED, BOMBS EXPLODED AND BLANKETED GUN DEFENSES IN AREAS AS INDICATED:

191P-3	192B-5	207K-3
1911-4	192G-1	
191N-6	192M-4 (NEAR MISSES ON HEAVY GUNS)	

THE FOLLOWING BOMB EXPLOSIONS WERE OBSERVED AND WERE TOO FAR AWAY FROM GUN EMPLACEMENTS TO CAUSE ANY DAMAGE TO THE EMPLACEMENT.

191V-1
1910-4 (WEST SIDE OF SHINAPAARU VILLAGE)
192K-1 (CENTER OF SHINAPAARU VILLAGE)
2600-1
206T-1

ELEVEN BOMB HITS WERE UNOBSERVED, AND ONE BOMB HUNG UP WAS FINALLY DROPPED 10 MILES EAST OF TINIAN ISLAND BY VIOLET 6-3/
VIOLET 1 & 8 MADE ONE STRAFING ATTACK ON A/A GUN EMPLACEMENTS IN AREA 191 MNO. TRACER WAS OBSERVED TO ENTER THE EMPLACEMENTS. NO A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. 9/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 1,500 FT. OVER TARGET.
B. GOOD
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 46 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/.025 SEC. DELAY FUSE.
3150 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G. - 4,600 GALS. GAS.
8. OPERATIONS ORDER #23, HQS. 318TH GP. ORDERED MISSION TO TAKE OFF AT 0940 TO BE OVER TARGET AT 1000K. MISSION TOOK OFF AT 0930 AND

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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. #244

12 AUG. 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-16
GROUP MISSION #8-37 (CONTINUED)

8. CONT'D.

ARRIVED OVER THE TARGET AT 1012. RECOMMEND MORE TIME BE ALLOWED BETWEEN TAKEOFF AND TIME OVER TARGET, ESPECIALLY FOR MISSIONS INVOLVING A LARGE NUMBER OF PLANES. ROTA RUNWAY APPEARED WELL CRATERED AND NON-OPERATIONAL. NO OPERATIONALLY AIRCRAFT OR SHIPPING OBSERVED AT ROTA.

MOAFEE

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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, A
A.P.O. # 24719TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-17
318TH GROUP MISSION # 8-38

12 AUGUST 1944

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
 2. A. NONE
B. NONE
 3. STRAFE COAST AND BEACH DEFENSES ARE ROTA ISLAND.
 4. CAPT. GUINNEE, LT. DUNN, CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LT. DANYLO. (VIOLET 2)
LTS. JACOBSON, MATHIS, KENDALL, RHODY. (VIOLET 7)
- TAKEOFF: 1340 - LAND: 1456

FLIGHTS ARRIVED AT EFUENAARUKOSU PT. AT 1403. VIOLET 2 MADE THREE STRAFING RUNS AT TREE TOP LEVEL ALONG THE SOUTH COAST FROM EFUENAARUKOSU PT. TO HARNOM PT. VIOLET 7 MADE FOUR ATTACKS ALONG THE NORTH COAST FROM EFUENAARUKOSU PT. TO HARNOM PT. FLIGHTS OBSERVED AND STRAFED NUMEROUS TRENCHES, FOX HOLES AND GUN EMPLACEMENTS. PILOTS OBSERVED THAT THE NORTH COAST OF ROTA IS MORE HEAVILY DEFENDED THAN THE SOUTH COAST.

VIOLET 7 HEAVILY STRAFED ENEMY STRONG POINT AT MOGHON PT. THIS STRONG POINT REPORTED TO CONSIST OF ONE BLOCKHOUSE, TWO AUTO A/A, SEVEN PILLBOXES, TEN M/G, AND FIRE AND COMMUNICATION TRENCHES.

VIOLET 7 HEAVILY STRAFED OBSERVED GUN EMPLACEMENTS IN AREA 138E, AND WHAT APPEARED TO BE A NEW OD GUN EMPLACEMENT IN A CLEARING IN WOODED SECTOR OF TARGET AREA 181R OR N.

VIOLET 2-3 OBSERVED A GUN FLASH IN TARGET AREA 138-1 AND ONE ALONG THE SHORE 1/4 MILE EAST OF NAVAL SIGNAL STATION AT SOSANJAYA BAY.

5. A. 8/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 1400 FEET. FRONT OBSERVED MOVING IN FROM THE EAST JUST SOUTH OF AGUIJAN ISLAND.
B. GOOD.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 14,800 RDS. .50 CAL. AMMO. - 1600 GALLONS GAS.
8. OBSERVED A NEW 40 X 100 FT., THREE STORY BUILDING BEING CONSTRUCTED IN AREA 115E.
ROTA TOWN OBSERVED TO BE BADLY BATTERED. VILLAGE IN AREA 128,115, AND 116 APPEARS TO BE ONLY SLIGHTLY DAMAGED.
NO OPERATIONAL SHIPPING OBSERVED IN SOSANLAGH AND SOSANJAYA BAYS.
RAILROAD ON NORTH SIDE OF ISLAND HAS HAD LARGE SECTIONS OF RAIL REMOVED.

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

18 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #B-18
GROUP MISSION # B-47

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB HEAVY AA GUNS EMPLACEMENTS, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR MOAFEE, LT. DELP, CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LT. MARCINKO (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. MATHIS, LIEBGOTT, DOHERTY, (VIOLET 5)
LTS. RUFF, BARRETT, KENDLE, BACH, (VIOLET 8)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, PETTY, BYRAM (VIOLET 6)

TAKEOFF: 1340 - LAND: 1601

SIXTEEN PLANES OF VIOLET 1,5,6,8, AFTER BECOMING AIRBORNE AT 1340 FLEW DUE NORTH, IN FOUR SHIP ECHELON, TWO FLIGHTS AT 10,000 FEET AND TWO AT 8,000 FEET. OVER TARGET AT 1435.

VIOLET 5 BEGAN THE ATTACK, BY BOMBING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS POSITIONS AT SHOMUSHON VILLAGE. BOMB RUN WAS MADE SOUTH TO NORTH FROM 10,000 FEET, IN CLOSE STRING WITH RELEASE AT 2,000 - 3,000 FEET.

TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 150 FEET SOUTHWEST OF A/W WEAPONS 300 FEET NORTH OF WEST END OF TAXI STRIP. ONE BOMB SEEN TO EXPLODE 150 FEET NORTH OF A/W POSITION 700 FEET NORTH OF EXTREME NORTHWEST CORNER OF TAXI STRIP. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 100 FEET NORTH OF A/W POSITION AT SOUTHWEST EDGE OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED BETWEEN TWO A/W POSITIONS ABOUT 100 FEET APART JUST SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE.

VIOLET 1,6,8, ATTACKED HEAVY AA GUN EMPLACEMENTS AND REPORTED 20MM GUNS IN THE VICINITY OF THE CINDER CONE NORTH OF THE EAST END OF THE AIRFIELD. ATTACK WAS MADE NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST FROM 8,000-10,000 FEET IN CLOSE STRING WITH RELEASE AT 3,000 FEET.

EIGHT BOMBS WERE SEEN ~~IN~~ DROPPED AND SEEN TO EXPLODE IN WOODED AREA WHERE 20MM FIRE WAS OBSERVED, THIS AREA IS 500 FEET SOUTHWEST OF CENTER OF CINDER CONE. TWO BOMBS FELL SHORT OF GUN POSITION ON SOUTH SLOPE OF CONE AND EXPLODED ON THE NORTHWEST SLOPE. TWO BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE BETWEEN TWO GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF THE CONE.

TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 200 FEET NORTHEAST OF HEAVY GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON THE SOUTH SLOPE. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 350 FEET SOUTHWEST OF HEAVY GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON THE SOUTH SLOPE.

DURING THE BOMB RUN VIOLET 6-3 AND 6-4 RELEASED THEIR BOMBS ON WOODED AREA 1,000-1,500 FEET EAST OF EAST END OF RUNWAY. THEY OBSERVED LARGE GUN FIRE FLASHES FROM THIS AREA.

THREE BOMBS WERE UNOBSERVED.

VIOLET 1,6,8, MADE A STRAFING ATTACK FROM NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE, STRAFING WOODED AREA SOUTHWEST OF CINDER CONE, GUN POSITIONS ON SLOPE OF CINDER CONE AND GUN POSITIONS EAST OF EAST END OF RUNWAY IN WOODED AREA.

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-18 (CONT'D)

INTENSE HEAVY A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED AND OBSERVED TO EMANATE FROM SLOPE OF CINDER CONE AND EAST FRINGE OF WOODED AREA SOUTHWEST OF CONE. INTENSE A/W FIRE FROM WOODED AREA JUST SOUTHWEST OF CINDER CONE. MODERATE HEAVY A/A FIRE FROM WOODED AREA 1,200 FEET EAST OF EAST END OF RUNWAY. MODERATE A/W FIRE FROM EMPLACEMENTS AROUND SHOMUSHON VILLAGE. MODERATE MEDIUM A/A AND A/W FIRE FROM NORTH EDGE OF WOODS SOUTHEAST OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE. MEAGRE MG FIRE FROM CLIFFS SOUTH OF WEST END OF RUNWAY.

IT APPEARED THAT THE ENEMY WAS PUTTING UP A BARRAGE OF HEAVY A/A FIRE AND WERE NOT FIRING AT INDIVIDUAL PLANES. HEAVY AND MEDIUM A/A SHELLS WERE BURSTING AT 4,000 FEET. EVEN AFTER THE AIRCRAFT WERE WELL BELOW 4,000 FEET THE SHELLS STILL BURST AT THAT ALTITUDE. ONE P-47 RETURNED WITH SMALL FLAK HOLE IN RIGHT WING CAUSED BY 75MM A/A. MEDIUM A/A AND A/W FIRE INACCURATE.

5. A. 2/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 3,000 FEET.
B. GOOD

6. UNDETERMINED.

7. 32 X 500# G.P. BOMBS W/:025 SEC. DELAY FUSES. 9,600 ROUNDS .50 GAL. 4,000 GALLONS GASOLINE.

8. PILOTS BELIEVE THAT JAPS HAVE MOVED ADDITIONAL HEAVY A/A GUNS IN THE VICINITY OF THE CINDER CONE.
VIOLET 1 LEADER COULD NOT CONTACT 'SLATS' UNTIL FLIGHTS HAD BEEN ON COURSE FOR BASE APPROXIMATELY 10 MINUTES.
VIOLET 1 LEADER RECOMMENDS FIRE BOMBS BE USED ON GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON THE SLOPE OF THE CINDER CONE.

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A.P.O. # 24419TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-19
318TH GROUP MISSION # 8-48

21 AUGUST 1944

1. A. 20 P-47D'S
B. NONE
 2. A. NONE
B. NONE
 3. DIVE-BOMB ENEMY A/A GUN EMPLACEMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF GINDER @
CONE, PAGAN ISLAND.
 4. MAJOR MCAFEE, LTS. DELP, PETTY STROUD. (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. GUINNEE, LTS. DUNN, FLAGERMAN, TRUMBUR. (VIOLET 2)
CAPT. VOGT, LTS. BYRAM, LOFLIN, DUNNING. (VIOLET 4)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. DOHERTY, RUFF, DANYLO. (VIOLET 5)
LTS. JACOBSON, MATHIS, KENDLE, BARRETT. (VIOLET 7)
- TAKEOFF: VIOLET 1 - 1200 LAND: 1535
 VIOLET 2,4,5,7 - 1300

FOUR PLANES OF VIOLET 1, TOOK OFF AT 1200K ON SURVEILLANCE PHASE OF MISSION AGAINST PAGAN ISLAND. IN ORDER TO AVOID RADAR DETECTION THE FLIGHT MAINTAINED AN ALTITUDE OF 10 FEET ON COURSE OF 310 DEGREES FROM SAIPAN FOR 37 MINUTES AT 200 MPH, COURSE WAS THEN CHANGED TO 023 DEGREES FOR 49 MINUTES AT 200 MPH, THIS COURSE PUT THE FLIGHT ON STATION 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF PAGAN AT 1320K.

ALL PLANES OF VIOLET 1 WERE EQUIPPED WITH WING TANKS. THE WING TANKS ON TWO OF THE PLANES WERE FITTED WITH W/P GRENADES. FLIGHT OBSERVED AND IDENTIFIED A NAVY PBM 10 - 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF PAGAN, ALTITUDE 5,000 FEET, COURSE 180 DEGREES.

VIOLET 2,4,5,7, TOOK OFF AT 1200. LT. DUNN, VIOLET 2-2, DID NOT TAKE OFF DUE TO MECHANICAL TROUBLE. FLIGHTS FLEW DUE NORTH TO PAGAN ISLAND AT 10,000 FEET, FLIGHTS IN MUTUAL SUPPORT.

VIOLET 1 OVER TARGET AT 1340, VIOLET 2,4,5,7, OVER TARGET AT 1410K.

VIOLET 1, DROPPED TWO WING TANKS WITH W/P/ GRENADES ATTACHED 600 YARDS SOUTHEAST OF GINDER CONE AND BOTH TANKS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE AND BURN. TWO TANKS WITH W/P GRENADES WERE DROPPED 300 YARDS EAST OF THE EAST END OF THE RUNWAY, ONE WAS OBSERVED TO EXPLODE AND BURN, THE FIRE THAT WAS STARTED BY THIS TANK WAS OBSERVED TO BE BURNING INTENSELY AS PLANES WITHDREW FROM PAGAN ISLAND. THE OTHER TANK WAS UNOBSERVED AND PILOTS WERE UNABLE TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT EXPLODED OR NOT. VIOLET 1 STRAFED FOUR LANDING BARGES BEACHED ALONG THE WEST COAST OF PAGAN APPROXIMATELY 1,000 YARDS SOUTH OF SHOMUSHON BAY. ONE BARGE APPEARED OPERATIONAL TO PILOTS AND A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF TRACER WAS OBSERVED ENTERING THIS BARGE.

IN ORDER TO PREVENT THE ENEMY FROM CONCENTRATING ALL THEIR FIRE-POWER AGAINST OUR AIRCRAFT, COORDINATED DIVE-BOMBING ATTACKS WERE MADE AGAINST THE HEAVY A/A GUN POSITIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE GINDER CONE FROM FOUR DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS. VIOLET 2 MADE THEIR DIVE-BOMB RUN FROM EAST TO WEST, FROM 10,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 5,000 FEET. VIOLET 4 CAME IN FROM THE SOUTH EAST AND RETIRED NORTH WEST, ALTITUDE 10,000 FEET, RELEASE 5,000 FEET. VIOLET 5 FROM THE NORTHEAST, RETIRING SOUTHWEST, ALTITUDE 10,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 3,000 FEET. VIOLET 7 FROM NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST WITH RELEASE AT 4,000 FEET

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, A
A.P.O. # 244

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-19
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-48

(CONTINUED)

TWELVE 500 LB G.P. BOMBS BLANKETED THE GUN POSITIONS ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF THE CINDER CONE. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 200 YARDS SOUTHEAST OF CENTER OF CINDER CONE ALONG EDGE OF WOODS IN THAT AREA. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED ON SOUTH EDGE OF WOODS, 400 YARDS SOUTHWEST OF THE CENTER OF CINDER CONE. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED IN WOODED AREA 600 YARDS SOUTHEAST OF CINDER CONE. FOUR BOMBS HUNG UP OVER TARGET; TWO WERE FINALLY RELEASED IN RUNWAY AREA, ONE OF THESE EXPLODED IN THE CENTER OF THE RUNWAY AND THE OTHER ON THE TAXI STRIP SOUTH OF THE CENTER OF THE RUNWAY. THE REMAINING TWO HANGUPS WERE RELEASED AT SEA, ONE SIX MILES SOUTHEAST OF PAGAN, AND THE OTHER 600 YARDS OFF SHORE SOUTHEAST OF THE ISLAND.

ON HIS BOMB RUN VIOLET 4-4 RELEASED ONE BOMB ON NON-OPERATIONAL NELL PARKED ON NORTH TAXI STRIP, BOMB EXPLODED WITHIN 150 FEET OF THE PLANES SEVEN BOMBS WERE UNOBSERVED.

VIOLET 5, AFTER RELEASING BOMBS CONTINUED SOUTHEAST ACROSS ISLAND STRAFING AS THEY WITHDREW.

MEAGRE, INACCURATE MACHINE GUN FIRE ENCOUNTERED. THIS FIRE WAS OBSERVED COMING FROM AREA 200 YARDS SOUTHEAST OF CINDER CONE.

5. A. 2/10 CLOUD COVERAGE, BASE AT 1800 FEET.
B. INTER-FLIGHT COMMUNICATIONS GOOD.
COULD NOT CONTACT "SLATS".
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 14 X 500 LB. GP BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUZE
16 X 500 LB. GP BOMBS WITH .01 SECOND DELAY FUZE.
4 X 165 GALLON WING TANKS, WITH GASOLINE AND W/P GRENADE ATTACHED.
4,200 ROUNDS .50 CAL. AMMUNITION - 5,320 GALLONS GAS.
8. FLIGHTS WERE UNABLE TO MAKE RADIO CONTACT WITH "SLATS" THROUGHOUT MISSION, ALTHOUGH HE WAS OBSERVED IN THE AREA. RECOMMEND RADIO TESTS BE CONDUCTED WITH "SLATS" AND A FLIGHT OF P-47'S OVER SAIPAN TO IRON OUT DIFFICULTY.

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A.P.O. # 24419TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-20
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-51

22 AUGUST 1944

1. A. THREE (3) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. RESCUE MISSION - PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. MOHR, LTS. LIEBOGOTT, DOHERTY. (VIOLET 5)

TAKEOFF: 1121 - LAND: 1455

"JOSEPHINE" (P-47D EQUIPPED WITH TWO FIVE-MAN LIFE RAFTS SLUNG ON BOMB SHACKLES) AND ESCORT OF P-47'S (TWO) TOOK OFF AT 1121K TO ASSIST PILOT (73RD SQUADRON) REPORTED TO BE DOWN AT SEA 5 MILES DUE WEST OF PAGAN.

FLIGHT ARRIVED AT PAGAN ISLAND AT 1215K.

PBM ("SLATS") WAS ALREADY ON THE SCENE AND WAS MAKING A SEARCH FOR THE PILOT. "SLATS" MADE RADIO CONTACT WITH VIOLET 5 LEADER AND INFORMED HIM THAT HE HAD NOT LOCATED THE PILOT, BUT HAD LOCATED AN OIL SLICK.

P-47'S MADE SIX SEARCH RUNS ALONG THE WEST COAST OF PAGAN, FROM 5 MILES NORTH OF THE ISLAND TO 15 MILES SOUTH TO 5 MILES WEST OF THE ISLAND.

VIOLET 5-3 OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A DEFLATED LIFE-RAFT, FLOATING APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILES DUE WEST OF PAGAN AIRSTRIP. HE ALSO OBSERVED A BROWN OBJECT IN THE WATER WHICH HE BELIEVES COULD HAVE BEEN A PARACHUTE PACK. PILOT COULD NOT BE LOCATED.

5. A. 3/10 CLOUD COVERAGE - BASE AT 2500 FEET
B. GOOD
6. NONE
7. 967 GALLONS GAS.
8. SEARCH BEING CONTINUED BY 73RD SQUADRON.

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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. # 244

24 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-21
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-55

1. A. 8 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB & STRAFE GUN INSTALLATIONS AND BOMB PROOFS,
AGUIJAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. MOHR, LTS. DOHERTY, KENDALL, MATHIS (VIOLET 5)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, RUFF, BARRETT (VIOLET 6)

TAKEOFF: 0837 - LAND: 0842

FLIGHTS ON STATION AT POINT NAN AT 0850, OVER TARGET 0905. VIOLET 5 ATTACKED AREA 813 X FROM SE TO NW, 7000 FT., WITH BOMB RELEASE AT 1500 FT. 6 X 500 LB. BOMBS EXPLODED AND BLANKETED CANE FIELD NE OF CROSS ROAD WHERE 20MM A/A GUNS, 1 LGE. M.G. & BOMB PROOFS WERE REPORTED. ONE BOMB EXPLODED BETWEEN TWO BUILDINGS JUST SOUTH OF E-W ROAD TARGET AREA 813X. VIOLET 6-1 & 6-2 DIVE BOMBED REPORTED 25MM A/A GUN EMPLACEMENTS IN AREA 813Q. BOMB RUN WAS MADE FROM AN ALTITUDE OF 6500 FT. WITH BOMB RELEASE 1500 FT., IN AN EAST TO WEST DIRECTION. TWO BOMBS HIT IMMEDIATE TARGET AREA AND TWO OVERSHOT THE TARGET, ONE EXPLODING IN WOODS 100 YDS. WEST OF TARGET AND ONE 100 YDS. SW OF TARGET IN THE OPEN FIELDS. VIOLET 6-3 AND 6-4 MADE THEIR DIVE BOMB ATTACK ON AREA 813W IN WHICH A LIGHT MACHINE GUN INSTALLATION HAD BEEN REPORTED. BOMB RUNS WERE MADE FROM EAST TO WEST, ALTITUDE 6500 FT., WITH RELEASE AT 1500 FT. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 50-100 FT. NORTH OF THE TWO LONG FRAME BUILDINGS IN AREA 813W AND TWO EXPLODED IN THE FIELD NW OF CROSS ROAD WHERE GUN EMPLACEMENT WAS REPORTED TO BE LOCATED. FLIGHTS MADE A STRAFING ATTACK AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE FROM EAST TO WEST AGAINST SMALL VILLAGE LOCATED IN T/A 808C & D. ENCOUNTERED MEAGRE INACCURATE SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM VILLAGE IN AREA 808 C & D.

5. A. CAVU
B. GOOD
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 16 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/INSTANTANEOUS FUSES.
3200 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G. - 1200 CAL. GAS.
8. NONE

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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
A.P.O. # 244

24 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-22
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-58

1. A. 20 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY GUN EMPLACEMENTS, O.P. AND OBSERVATION TOWER, BETWEEN WEST END OF RUNWAY & SHOMUSHON VILLAGE, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. GUINNEE, LTS. DUNN, CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LT. DANYLO (VIOLET 2)
MAJ. MCAFEE, LTS. DELP, STAMPE, LUSTIG (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. DUNNING, PETTY, BYRAM (VIOLET 6)
LTS. JACOBSON, MATHIS, KENDALL, DEGHARY (VIOLET 7)
LTS. RUFF, BARRETT, FLAGERMAN, TRUMBOUR (VIOLET 8)

TAKEOFF: VIOLET 2 - 0957 - LAND: 1335
 VIOLET 1,6,7,8 - 1053

VIOLET 2, TOOK OFF FROM BASE ON SURVEILLANCE OF THIS MISSION AT 0957, AND FLEW ON A COURSE OF 20 DEGREES FOR 50 MINUTES (189 MILES), THEN CHANGED COURSE TO 325 DEGREES FOR 27 MINUTES (90 MILES), ALTITUDE 10 FEET. FLIGHT ON STATION 20 MILES NE OF PAGAN AT 1115K. PLANES OF THIS FLIGHT EQUIPPED WITH 165 GAL. WING TANKS WITH W/P GRENADE ATTACHED.

VIOLET 1,6,7,8 TOOK OFF AT 1053. FLIGHTS FLEW IN BOX FORMATION, TWO AT 10,000 FT. IN MUTUAL SUPPORT AND TWO AT 11,000 FT. AND IN FRONT OF LOWER FLIGHTS IN MUTUAL SUPPORT. OVER TARGET AT 1153. LT. RUFF, VIOLET 8-1, DID NOT TAKE OFF DUE TO MECHANICAL DIFFICULTY. LT. BYRAM, VIOLET 6-4 HAD TO TURN BACK WHEN FIVE MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN DUE TO DEFECTIVE BELLY TANK CONNECTION. WAS ASSIGNED ALTERNATE TARGET AT AGUIJAN ISLAND BY LONDON CONTROL (SEE MISSION REPORT #23, 19TH FTR, S.DN., 8/24/44).

VIOLET 1, DIVE BOMBED TARGET AREA FROM THE NORTHEAST, ALTITUDE 10,000 FT. WITH BOMB RELEASE AT 4000-5000 FT. VIOLET 2 DROPPED WING TANKS WITH W/P GRENADES ATTACHED, ON WOODED AREA 300 YDS. NORTH OF RUNWAY. THE TANKS CONTAINED GASOLINE THAT HAD NOT BEEN CONSUMED DURING THE SURVEILLANCE PHASE OF THE MISSION. ONLY TWO TANKS WERE ACTUALLY OBSERVED TO EXPLODE, STARTING A FIRE IN THE NE CORNER OF THE WOODED AREA.

VIOLET 6 ATTACKED THE TARGET FROM THE EAST, RETIRING WEST FROM 10,000 FT WITH RELEASE AT 5500 FT. VIOLET 7 ALSO BOMBED FROM EAST TO WEST, ALTITUDE 11,000 FT., BOMB RELEASE 5000 FT. VIOLET 8 BOMBED FROM THE SE, ALT. 11,000 FT., RELEASE AT 4,000 FT., FLIGHT RETIRING TO THE NW.

FOUR BOMBS EXPLODED ON NORTH TAXISTrip, SIX IN THE SW CORNER OF WOODED AREA 300 YDS. NORTH OF RUNWAY, TWO 175 YDS. NORTH OF WEST TURNAROUND, TWO 100 YDS. WEST OF THE SW CORNER OF BARRACKS AREA, ONE NORTHWEST CORNER OF BARRACKS AREA, FOUR IN STRING FROM SW TO NE (75 YDS. APART) THE FIRST ONE EXPLODING 300 YARDS DIRECTLY

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A.P.O. # 244

24 AUGUST 1944

CONTINUED19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-22
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-56

4. (CONT'D)

NORTH OF WEST TURNAROUND; ONE 100 YARDS SOUTHEAST OF OBSERVATION TOWER LOCATED 500 YARDS DIRECTLY NORTH OF THE WEST TURNAROUND; TWO 100 YARDS EAST OF COMMAND POST; ONE 50 YARDS NORTHWEST OF 20 MM A/A POSITION ON NORTH FRINGE OF WOODED AREA 300 YARDS NORTH OF FIELD; FIVE BOMBS WERE UNOBSERVED.

INTENSE ACCURATE 20 MM A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED OVER THE TARGET. THIS FIRE APPEARED TO EMANATE FROM THE WOODED AREA NORTH OF THE AIRFIELD. VIOLET 6-3 OBSERVED A/A BURSTS (WHITE SMOKE) AT 4,000 FEET, BELIEVED TO 40 MM. MEAGRE 20 MM A/A FIRE OBSERVED COMING FROM CLIFFS SOUTH OF FIELD.

VIOLET 1-3, HIT BY 20 MM FIRE, AILERON ON RIGHT WING SHOT AWAY AND EXTENSIVE DAMAGE WAS DONE TO WING PANEL NECESSITATING WING CHANGE. PILOT HAD DIFFICULTY RETURNING TO BASE AND WAS FORCED TO MAKE AN EMERGENCY LANDING AT FIELD.

5. A. GAVU
B. INTERFLIGHT - GOOD
"SLATS" - GOOD

6. UNDETERMINED.

7. 28 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUZE.
8 X 165 GALLON WING TANKS W/WP GRENADE ATTACHED.
4,500 GALLONS GAS.

8. RECOMMEND WOODED AREA NORTH OF AIRFIELD BE ASSIGNED AS PRIMARY TARGET FOR DIVE-BOMB MISSION.

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A.P.O. # 24419TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION # 8-23
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 8-57

24 AUGUST 1944

1. A. 2 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE-BOMB BUILDING AGUIJAN VILLAGE, AREA 8080, AGUIJAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. VOGT, LT. BYRAM. (VIOLET 4)

TAKEOFF: LT. BYRAM - 1053
CAPT. VOGT - 1204

LAND: 1237

LT. BYRAM AFTER BEING FORCED TO LEAVE FORMATION 5 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN ON PAGAN MISSION, DUE TO DEFECTIVE BELLY-TANK CONNECTION, CONTACTED LONDON CONTROL WHO ORDERED HIM TO ORBIT SAIPAN WHILE ANOTHER PLANE WAS SCRAMBLED FROM BASE TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON A DIVE-BOMB MISSION AGAINST AGUIJAN ISLAND.

LONDON CONTROL ORDERED ELEMENT TO DIVE-BOMB A BUILDING IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE VILLAGE ALONG THE EAST-WEST ROAD IN THE CENTER OF AGUIJAN ISLAND, AREA 8080.

BOMB RUN WAS MADE FROM EAST TO WEST, ALTITUDE 7,500 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 2,000 FEET.

TWO BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE AND COMPLETELY DESTROY ASSIGNED TARGET. TWO BOMBS EXPLODED BETWEEN THE ASSIGNED TARGET AND BUILDING DIRECTLY SOUTH OF IT. THIS SECOND BUILDING WAS DAMAGED. FLIGHT STRAFED TARGET DURING DIVE BOMBING.

NO A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED.

- 5.A. 1/10 CLOUD COVERAGE OVER TARGET.
B. GOOD.
6. TARGET COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
7. 4 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS WITH INSTANTANEOUS FUZES. 600 ROUNDS .50 GAL. AMMUNITION. 200 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. NONE.

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316TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF
A.P.O. #244

24 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #24
GROUP MISSION #58A

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY STORES, SHELTERS AND BIVOUAC AREA, AGUIJAN ISLAND.
4. LTS. LOFLIN, DELP, STAMPE, LUSTIG. (VIOLET 10)
LTS. JACOBSON, STROUD, PETTY, BYRAM. (VIOLET 7)

TAKEOFF: 1442 - LAND: 1800

FLIGHTS ON STATION 1450K, OVER TARGET AT 1505.
CONTROL LONDON.

VIOLET 7 ATTACKED SMALL SHELTERS AND STORES REPORTED IN HEAVILY WOODED AREA, T/A 819G, H, D, M. TWO DIVE RUNS WERE MADE WITH ONE BOMB BEING RELEASED ON EACH RUN. RUNS WERE MADE FROM EAST TO WEST. FIRST RUN FROM 9,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 3,000 FEET. THE SECOND RUN FROM 7,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 2,500 FEET. SIX BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE IN THE TARGET AREA. ONE BOMB EXPLODED 200 FEET NORTHEAST OF THE TARGET AND ONE 200 FEET NORTHWEST OF TARGET. THE FLIGHT THEN MADE A STRAFING ATTACK AGAINST THE TARGET AREA, AS A RESULT OF THIS STRAFING A SMALL FIRE WAS STARTED IN THE AREA.

VIOLET 10 ATTACKED REPORTED SMALL ENEMY BIVOUAC AREA IN T/A 819V. TWO BOMB RUNS WERE MADE FROM EAST TO WEST. ONE RUN FROM 8,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 1,500 FEET, AND ONE FROM 6,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 1,000 FEET. SEVEN BOMBS EXPLODED ON THE TARGET, ONE FELL SHORT ON THE EDGE OF THE WOODS EAST OF TARGET. TWO STRAFING ATTACKS WERE COMPLETED BY VIOLET 10 ON THIS TARGET WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS.

FLIGHTS ALSO STRAFED BUILDINGS IN AREA 806M, H, I, FROM MINIMUM ALTITUDE. VIOLET 10-3 OBSERVED FOUR (4) JAPS ENTER A THAGHED HUT IN AREA 806M WHICH HE GAVE A THOROUGH GOING OVER. AS A RESULT OF STRAFING A FIRE WAS STARTED IN BUILDING IN AREA 806M AND IN THE CANE FIELDS IN AREA 807L, M.

5. A. GAVU
B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 16 X 500# G.P. BOMBS WITH INSTANTANIOUS FUSES, 4,950 ROUNDS
.50 CAL. 1800 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. NONE

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318TH FIGHTER GROUPAAF
A.P.O.#244

26 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-25
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-83

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY VILLAGE T/A 808C,D; 813W,X, AGUIJAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR MCAFEE, LTS. BYRAM, PETTY, MARGINKO (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. VOST, LTS. DECHARY, LOFLIN, DUNNING (VIOLET 4)
CAPT. SLEEPEKY, LTS. DANYLO, GRAY, ELENDER (VIOLET 6)
LTS. RUFF, BARRETT, KENDLE, ANDERSON (VIOLET 8)

TAKEOFF: 0755 - LAND: 0915

FLIGHTS OVER THE TARGET AT 0808. TWO BOMB RUNS WERE MADE GENERALLY SOUTH TO NORTH, ALTITUDE 8,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 1,500 FEET TO 2,000 FEET. THIRTY (30) 500# G.P. BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE TARGET AREA. ONE BOMB FELL SHORT IN AREA 808I AND ONE LONG IN AREA 813X.

PILOTS ESTIMATED 90 PERCENT OF THE VILLAGE COMPLETELY DESTROYED, REMAINDER OF VILLAGE DAMAGED.

WOODED AREAS AND CLIFFS IN AREA 807, 808, 811X AND Y, 814 STRAFED AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE. FIRE STARTED IN WOODS IN AREA 814A,B.

5. A. CLOUD COVERAGE AT 3,000 FEET.
B. GOOD
6. 90% VILLAGE COMPLETELY DESTROYED.
7. 8 X 500# G.P. BOMBS W/INST. FUSES
24 X 500# G.P. BOMBS WITH 0.1 SEC. DELAY FUSES.
12,800 ROUNDS .50 CAL. 2880 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. TAKEOFF DELAYED TEN (10) MINUTES BY BOMB THAT FELL OFF ON RUNWAY FROM PLANE RETURNING FROM PAGAN MISSION. (333RD SQDN)

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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, A
A.P.O. #244

27 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-26
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-64

1. A. 16 P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB AREA NORTH AND NORTHWEST OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE,
PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. GUINNEE, LT. DUNN, CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LT. TRUMBOUR,
(VIOLET 2)
CAPT. VOGT, LTS. DECHARY, LOFLIN, DUNNING, (VIOLET 4)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. ANDERSON, LIEBGOTT, LUSTIG (VIOLET 5)
LTS. JACOBSON, MARCINKO, RUFF, ELENDER (VIOLET 7)

TAKEOFF: 0950 - LAND: 1213

VIOLET 2 & 4 FLEW IN MUTUAL SUPPORT AT 10,000 FT., VIOLET 5 & 7 AT 12,000 FT., IN MUTUAL SUPPORT, OVER TARGET AT 1100K. VIOLET 2 MADE DIVE BOMB RUN FROM SE TO NW, ALTITUDE 9,500 FT. WITH RELEASE AT 3,000 FT., FORTY FIVE DEGREE DIVING ANGLE. VIOLET 4 WENT IN ON BOMB RUN FROM W - E, 10,000 FT. WITH RELEASE AT 3,000 FT., 35 - 40 DEGREE ANGLE. VIOLET 5 MADE BOMB RUN FROM NE TO SW, ALTITUDE 9,500 FT. WITH RELEASE AT 3,000 FT., 35 - 40 DEGREE ANGLE. VIOLET 7 BOMBED FROM NE TO SW, ALTITUDE 12,000 FT., RELEASE AT 4,000 FT., 60 DEGREE ANGLE.

TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 500 YDS. N. OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE, TWO BOMBS EXPLODED 100 YDS. NW OF VILLAGE, EIGHT BOMBS LANDED IN SHOMUSHON VILLAGE, 6 BOMBS BLANKETED THE TWO SOUTHERN MOST HEAVY GUN POSITIONS NORTH OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE, TWO EXPLODED IN WOODED AREAS NORTH OF RUNWAY, ONE 100 YDS. E OF WOODED AREA, ONE 100 YDS. N OF WOODED AREA NORTH OF RUNWAY, ONE 400 YDS. E OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE, NINE BOMBS WERE UNOBSERVED.

MEAGRE, INACCURATE, 20MM FIRE ENCOUNTERED EMANATING FROM BASE OF RIDGE 300 YDS. NE OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE. MEAGRE HVY. M.G. OR 20 MM FIRE OBSERVED TO COME FROM AREA 1 1/4 MILES NE OF EAST END OF RUNWAY.

FLIGHTS RECONSIDERED ALL THE ISLANDS BETWEEN SAIPAN AND PAGAN. OBSERVED NO NEW ACTIVITY OR SHIPPING. VILLAGE ON NW SIDE OF ALAMAGAN ISLAND STRAFED. ONE BUILDING WAS OBSERVED TO EXPLODE AND BURN INTENSELY.

5. A. CAVU
B. COULD NOT CONTACT "SLATS"
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 16 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/INSTANTANEOUS FUSE. 16 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/O.1 SEC. DELAY FUSE. - 6400 RDS. 50 GAL. M.G. 4400 GAL. GAS.
8. NONE MCAFEE

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

30 AUGUST 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-27
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8-69

1. A. SIXTEEN (16) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. STRAFE STORAGE AREA AND LIGHT A/A GUN EMPLACEMENTS NORTH AND NORTHWEST, PAGAN AIRFIELD, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. GUINNEE, LT. DUNN, LT. COL. TAYLOR, LT. BYRAM. (VIOLET - 2)
CAPT. MOHR, LTS. ANDERSON, RUFF, STROUD. (VIOLET - 5)
CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LTS. DECHARY, KENDLE, MATHIS. (VIOLET - 4)
CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. ANGELLE, GRAY, RHODY. (VIOLET - 6)

TAKEOFF: 0450 - LAND: 0705

VIOLET 2 & 5 FLEW AT 10,000 FEET IN MUTUAL SUPPORT, AND VIOLET 4 & 6 AT 11,000 FEET IN MUTUAL SUPPORT. LT. STROUD, VIOLET 5-4, DEVELOPED GENERATOR TROUBLE WHEN THE FORMATION WAS 85 MILES NORTH OF BASE ON THE WAY TO THE TARGET. LT. STROUD AND HIS ELEMENT LEADER LT. RUFF, VIOLET 5-3 RETURNED TO BASE AND PANGAKED AT 0520.

FLIGHTS WERE OVER THE TARGET AT 0552. VIOLET 2 MADE THEIR STRAFING ATTACK FROM THE SOUTHEAST, VIOLET 5 FROM THE EAST, VIOLET 4 FROM THE NORTH, NORTHEAST, VIOLET 6 FROM THE NORTHEAST. ALL FLIGHTS RETIRED GENERALLY SOUTHWEST. STRAFING ATTACKS WERE MADE AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE.

AS A RESULT OF THE STRAFING ATTACK A FIRE WAS STARTED IN THE STORAGE AREA, NORTH OF THE RUNWAY ALONG THE SOUTH FRINGE OF THE WOODED AREA JUST NORTH OF THE FIELD. A SMALL FIRE STARTED IN WOODED AREA 150 FEET NORTHWEST OF STORAGE AREA NORTH OF THE FIELD. ANOTHER FIRE STARTED IN WOODED AREA 500 YARDS EAST OF THE EAST END OF RUNWAY. A LARGER FIRE WAS STARTED 500 YARDS NORTH OF TANK BARRIER JUST OFF NORTHWEST END OF FIELD.

INTENSE TO MODERATE INACCURATE MACHINE GUN AND A/W FIRE ENCOUNTERED. FIRE OBSERVED TO EMANATE FROM WOODED AREA 400 YARDS AND 600 YARDS EAST OF CINDER CONE.

5. A. 1/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,500 FEET OVER TARGET.
B. INTER-FLIGHT GOOD. COULD NOT CONTACT 'SLATS' ON "G" CHANNEL (SEE REMARKS)
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 11,550 ROUNDS .50 CAL. 4,800 GALLONS GASOLINE
8. FLIGHTS COULD NOT CONTACT 'SLATS' ON "G" CHANNEL, HOWEVER ONE PILOT THOUGHT HE HEARD 'SLATS' ANSWER ON "B" BAND. REQUEST DUMBO SERVICE

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #8-27 (CONT'D)
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #8- (CONT'D)

8. CONT'D
BE CONTACTED TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT 'BLATS' STANDS BY
ON "C" CHANNEL AS DIRECTED. THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT HE
SOMETIMES STANDS BY ON ANOTHER CHANNEL, THUS MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE
FOR FLIGHTS TO CONTACT HIM ON THE ASSIGNED CHANNEL.

WILLAMS

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