

RETURN TO RESEARCH STUDIES UNIT # 8 HISTORICAL DIVISION ARMO. AND DEF. H	X X
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SI-FI-19-NI(79 AF)
 Oct 1944

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5858-824
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19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
318TH FIGHTER GROUP
VII FIGHTER COMMAND
SEVENTH AIR FORCE
ARMY AIR FORCES, PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS
A.P.O. #244

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 318TH FIGHTER GROUP, VII FIGHTER COMMAND, SEVENTH AIR FORCE.

OCTOBER 1, 1944 - OCTOBER 31, 1944

1. DATE OF ARRIVAL AT AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION OCCUPIED IN THIS THEATRE - NEGATIVE.
2. LOSSES IN ACTION - NEGATIVE.
3. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS - NEGATIVE.
4. 15 ENLISTED MEN RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES ON ROTATION PLAN. 3 OFFICERS RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES FOR RE-ASSIGNMENT. 5 OFFICERS AND 10 ENLISTED MEN ASSIGNED TO THE SQUADRON DURING THE MONTH.
5. STRENGTH: (PERSONNEL)

1 OCTOBER <u>OFFICERS</u> - 63 E/M - 246	31 OCTOBER <u>OFFICERS</u> - 65 E/M - 241
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6. STRENGTH: (AIRPLANES)

1 OCTOBER 27 P-47D'S	31 OCTOBER 25 P-47D'S
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7. LOSSES: (AIRPLANES)
 - 1 P-47D TRANSFERRED 71ST SERVICE GROUP.
 - 1 P-47D LOST BY OPERATIONAL ACCIDENT.

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5858-62-a

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

S E C R E T

COMBAT OPERATIONS: ✓

THE MONTH OF OCTOBER WAS AN EVENTFUL ONE IN THAT IT HERALDED THE DREAM COME TRUE, OF ALL BOMBER PILOTS IN THE CENTRAL PACIFIC AREA, THAT OF FIGHTER ESCORT.

AS A RESULT OF WEEKS OF PLANNING THE FIRST LONG RANGE ESCORT OF BOMBERS WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY P-47'S OF THE 318TH FIGHTER GROUP, ON OCTOBER 21, 1944.

PRIOR TO THE MISSION, GAS CONSUMPTION TESTS WERE RUN BY THIS SQUADRON IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE 30TH BOMB. GP. A FLIGHT WAS MADE BY B-24'S AND P-47'S TO SOBAL ISLAND, IN THE CAROLINES, TO DETERMINE THE PROPER POWER SETTINGS FOR A LONG RANGE MISSION. THE DISTANCE ON THE TRIAL RUN WAS 1207.5 SET MILES. (525 NAUTICAL MI.)

THE PLAN OF ATTACK WAS AS FOLLOWS:

A STRIKE FORCE OF 32 B-24'S WERE TO BOMB TARGETS ON IWO JIMA. IT WAS EXPECTED THAT APPROXIMATELY 3 ZEKES AND 1 T/E ENEMY AIRCRAFT WOULD INTERCEPT THE BOMBERS OVER THE TARGET AND FOLLOW THEM OUT AT LEAST AS FAR AS MONAMI ISLAND, AS HAD BEEN THEIR PRACTICE IN THE PAST. AT THAT POINT THERE WOULD BE ON STATION, 20 P-47'S, 10 FROM THE 19TH FTR., AND 10 FROM THE 73 RD FTR SQUADNS., WHO WERE TO ATTACK THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT. THE P-47'S WERE TO BE ESCORTED BY 3 B-24'S FOR NAVIGATION PURPOSES, AS FAR AS MONAMI IS.

THE MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL AND RENDEZVOUS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITH THE STRIKE FORCE AS THEY WITHDREW FROM THE ISLAND. HOWEVER, THE ZEKES BROKE OFF CONTACT SOONER THAN WAS EXPECTED, AND THE ONLY ENEMY AIRCRAFT ENCOUNTERED BY THE P-47'S WAS A T/E "NICK". THE ENEMY PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN AND CREDITED TO CAPT. CHARLES W. TENNANT OF THIS SQUADRON. THIS MISSION WAS THE LONGEST MISSION EVER PERFORMED BY SINGLE ENGINE FIGHTERS IN THE CPA, A DISTANCE OF 1334 STATUTE MILES. THE FLYING TIME WAS 6 HOURS, AND 38 MINUTES. IT IS FELT BY THE SQUADRON THAT THE MISSION TO MANAMI ISLAND REPRESENTS THE LIMIT OF RADIUS OF ACTION FOR THE P-47.

IN ADDITION TO THE ESCORT MISSION, SIX STRIKE MISSIONS WERE ACCOMPLISHED AGAINST TARGETS ON ENEMY HELD PAGAN ISLAND. FIFTEEN TONS OF BOMBS, 86 X 4.5 ROCKETS, AND 29,890 ROUNDS OF .50 CAL. AMMUNITION WERE EXPENDED ON THESE STRIKES. TARGETS CONSISTED OF A/A GUN POSITIONS, STORAGE AREAS, RUNWAY, AND HOUSING FACILITIES. ENEMY RESISTANCE ENCOUNTERED WAS LIMITED TO MEAGRE TO MODERATE MACHINE GUN AND 20MM FIRE, INACCURATE IN ALL CASES.

A TOTAL OF 1546 HOURS WERE FLOWN DURING THE MONTH, 553 OF WHICH WERE CAP, 654 TRAINING, AND 338 SORTIE TIME. ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY COMBAT SORTIES WERE COMPLETED AGAINST THE ENEMY.

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ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF. (CONT'D)S E C R E TTRAINING:

FLYING TRAINING FOR THE MONTH CONSISTED OF AERIAL GUNNERY, TACTICS, DIVE BOMBING, AND GROUND GUNNERY.

SEVERAL OF THE OLDER PILOTS HAVE BEEN MADE FLIGHT LEADERS TAKING THE PLACE OF THOSE REASSIGNED TO THE UNITED STATES, AND THEIR TRAINING CONTINUES UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF THE EXPERIENCED FLIGHT LEADERS.

THE ONE OPERATION LOSS INCURRED DURING THE MONTH TOOK PLACE WHILE ON AN AERIAL GUNNERY TRAINING MISSION. ON THE 25 OCTOBER, 1944, AT 1100, APPROXIMATELY SIX MILES OFF MARPI POINT, WHILE AT AN ALTITUDE OF 14,000 FEET, A P-47D FLOWN BY 2ND LT. GEORGE R. SIFRITT, CAUGHT FIRE. ENGINE AND COCKPIT WERE ENVELOPED IN FLAMES AND LT. SIFRITT BAILED OUT. THE PILOT SUSTAINED 1ST AND 2ND DEGREE BURNS ON FACE, HANDS, AND ANKLES. HE WAS PICKED UP AT SEA BY A JAPANESE FISHING BOAT OPERATED BY INTERNED CIVILIANS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE GARRISON FORCE. THE CAUSE OF THE FIRE IS UNKNOWN AND THE AIRCRAFT WAS A TOTAL LOSS.

GROUND SCHOOL CONTINUES FOR ALL NEW PILOTS. THEY HAVE BEEN FAMILIARIZED WITH BORESIGHTING, PREFLIGHTING, AND RESERVICINING OF AIRPLANES AND ARMAMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, COURSES IN AIRCRAFT RECOGNITION, GEOGRAPHY, EVASION AND ESCAPE, ARE AT PRESENT BEING CONDUCTED BY THE INTELLIGENCE SECTION.

ADMINISTRATION:

FIFTEEN KEY ENLISTED MEN WERE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESENT ROTATION POLICY. THESE MEN COMPRISED THE FIRST GROUP TO BE SENT BACK FROM THIS SQUADRON. MANY OF THEM HAD BEEN OVERSEAS FOUR YEARS. NOW THAT THIS PROGRAM IS ACTUALLY IN OPERATION THE MORALE OF THE MEN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF OVERSEAS TIME, HAS BEEN BOOSTED.

THREE PILOTS RETURNED TO THE STATES THIS MONTH FOR REASSIGNMENT. IF REASSIGNMENT CONTINUES TO FUNCTION IT WILL MEAN THAT ALL PILOTS WILL EVENTUALLY BE REASSIGNED, DEPENDING OF COURSE ON THE TACTICAL SITUATION. HERETOFORE, THE SQUADRON HAS FELT THAT THE FIGHTER PILOTS HERE IN THE PACIFIC HAVE BEEN NEGLECTED AS FOR REASSIGNMENT AND LEAVE. THE ADVENT OF A DEFINITE REASSIGNMENT AND LEAVE POLICY HAS DONE AWAY WITH MUCH UNCERTAINTY.

THE WEEKLY ORIENTATION PROGRAM HAS MET WITH GREAT SUCCESS. MEETINGS CONSIST OF A DISCUSSION OR LECTURE ON THE PRESENT SITUATION IN VARIOUS THEATERS OF OPERATION, PLUS A RESUME OF THE SQUADRONS TACTICAL OPERATIONS. INCLUDED IN THE RESUME IS THE SHOWING OF "GUN CAMERA" FILM TAKEN ON STRIKE MISSIONS. IN DISCUSSING THE TACTICAL OPERATIONS OF THE SQUADRON, EVERY PHASE OF THE MISSION IS COVERED. FOR EXAMPLE: THE MEN ARE INFORMED WHAT THE PLAN OF ATTACK WAS, ENEMY OPPOSITION THAT WAS EXPECTED, AND FINALLY, HOW THE MISSION WAS CARRIED OUT.

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

S E C R E T

ADMINISTRATION: (CONTINUED)

PAST EXPERIENCES HAS SHOWN THAT THE MEN ARE MUCH MORE INTERESTED IN WHAT WE ARE ACCOMPLISHING TOWARD WINNING THE WAR, THAN IN SUCH SUBJECTS AS "WHY WE FIGHT". MOST OF THEM ARE OF THE OPINION THAT IF A MAN DOESN'T KNOW BY THIS TIME WHAT HE IS FIGHTING FOR, AND WHY, THEN HE'LL NEVER KNOW. THEY FURTHER BELIEVE THAT SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE SOLDIER DURING HIS BASIC TRAINING. THESE MEN NOW ENGAGED IN COMBAT, ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN THE RESULTS OBTAINED BY OUR OPERATIONS.

MORALE IN THE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN EXCELLENT DURING THE MONTH. THIS IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT LIVING CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. A NEW MESS HALL HAS BEEN BUILT FOR THE ENLISTED MEN, AND THE PILOTS NOW HAVE THEIR QUANSET HUTS COMPLETED.

BOTH THE ENLISTED MEN AND OFFICERS ARE IN THE PROCESS OF ORGANIZING A BASEBALL TEAM NOW THAT A FIELD HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED HERE ON EAST FIELD. MANY OF THE OTHER ORGANIZATIONS HERE HAVE BALL CLUBS AND A LEAGUE WILL BE SET UP WHICH SHOULD PROVIDE SOME VERY INTERESTING CONTESTS.

A CONCERTED EFFORT IS BEING MADE TO FILL IN THE MANY SPARE MOMENTS THAT STATION LIFE HERE ON SAIPAN PROVIDES. IT IS FELT THAT IN ORDER TO KEEP ALL HANDS IN A GOOD FRAME OF MIND, THEY MUST BE KEPT BUSY BY EITHER WORK, ENTERTAINMENT, OR ORGANIZED RECREATION.


JOSEPH G. TOWNSEND
1ST. LIEUT., A.C.

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

5 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-1
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-5

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR (24) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. GLIDE BOMB AND STRAFE BUILDINGS AND STORAGE AREAS, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. TAYLOR, STROUD, SHAFFER (VIOLET 1)
LTS. JACOBSON, THOMAS, STAMPE, RHODY (VIOLET 8)
CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LTS. LA ROUELLE, PETTY, BARRETT (VIOLET 4)
LTS. KENDLE, WEBER, COX, WYRAM (VIOLET 5)
CAPT. GUINREE, LTS. TROMBOUR, DUNN, DELP (VIOLET 2)
LTS. LOFLIN, DUNNING, ANDERSON, DOHERTY (VIOLET 10)

TAKE-OFF: 1031 - LAND : 1311

VIOLET 8-3 (LT STAMPE) DEVELOPED A PROP SURGE JUST AS FLIGHTS ARRIVED AT SARIGAN. VIOLET 8-3 AND HIS WINGMAN VIOLET 8-4 (LT RHODY) LEFT THE FORMATION. THIS ELEMENT ATTACKED THE ALTERNATE TARGET, HOUSING ON THE WEST COAST OF SARIGAN ISLAND. 4 X 100# GP BOMBS RELEASED ON THE TARGET. NO DIRECT HITS OBSERVED. ELEMENT THEN STRAFED THE TARGET WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS. ELEMENT RETURNED TO BASE AND PARACHUTED AT 1228.

FLIGHTS OVER PAGAN ISLAND AT 1145-1.

VIOLET 1 GLIDE BOMBED THE STORAGE AREA ON THE NORTH END OF THE ISLAND. RUN WAS MADE FROM WEST TO EAST, 4,000 FEET ALTITUDE WITH RELEASE AT 700 FEET, ANGLE OF DIVE 20 DEGREES, SPEED 300 MPH. SIX BOMBS FELL 50-100 YARDS SHORT OF THE TARGET AND TWO EXPLODED IN THE TARGET AREA. FLIGHT THEN MADE TWO STRAFING ATTACKS ON THE TARGET FROM MINIMUM ALTITUDE. OBSERVED GRASS HUTS IN THE AREA WHICH APPEARED TO BE EMPTY.

VIOLET 4, GLIDE BOMBED STORAGE AREA EAST OF THE LAKE (1.50-8.40). RUN WAS MADE FROM SOUTH TO NORTH, 3,500 FEET ALTITUDE WITH RELEASE AT 400 FEET, 30 DEGREE ANGLE OF DIVE, SPEED 300 MPH. SIX BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE ON THE TARGET, ONE BOMB EXPLODED TO THE WEST OF THE TARGET AND ONE TO THE NORTHEAST. FLIGHT RETIRED NORTH AND CLIMBED TO 3000 FEET, FROM WHICH ALTITUDE A STRAFING ATTACK ON THE TARGET WAS BEGUN. RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.

FLIGHT THEN STRAFED ALONG THE WEST COAST OF THE LAKE. THIS FLIGHT ALSO RECONNOITERED THE WEST COAST OF PAGAN NORTH OF THE HEADLANDS SEARCHING FOR THE LARGE PARTLY CAMOUFLAGED CAVE OBSERVED BY 333RD SQUADRON ON PREVIOUS MISSION. CAVE WAS NOT LOCATED BUT IN THE AREA WHERE CAVE WAS REPORTED FLIGHT OBSERVED SANDBAG MATTRESSES AGAINST THE CLIFF JUST NORTH OF THE HEADLANDS.

VIOLET 5 GLIDE BOMBED REPORTED GUN PITS ON THE SLOPE OF SMALL ERODED CINDER CONE AT THE BASE OF OF THE CLIFFS SOUTH AND EAST OF THE RUNWAY (3.55-9.15); BUILDINGS IN AREA 3-A.90 AND 3.15-A.95. FOUR BOMBS EXPLODED ON THE SLOPE OF THE CONE IN THE TARGET AREA. RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTH WEST TO SOUTHEAST, ALTITUDE 3,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 300 FEET 30 DEGREE ANGLE OF DIVE, SPEED 300 MPH. BOMBS DROPPED ON BUILDING AREAS WERE UNOBSERVED. FLIGHT STRAFED TARGET AREAS AND SET A SMALL HUT ON FIRE NEAR THE CAVE.

10TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-1 (CONT'D)
 318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-3 (CONT'D)

TWO PLANES VIOLET 8 GLIDE BOMBED STORAGE BUILDING NORTH OF LAKE, (.9-E.8) RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTH TO SOUTH, ALTITUDE 3,000 FEET, WITH RELEASE AT 500 FEET, 25 DEGREE ANGLE OF DIVE, SPEED 320 MPH. ONE BOMB FELL IN THE LAKE, AND THE OTHER THREE ALSO OVERSHOT TARGET BY 100 TO 200 FEET. FLIGHT STRAFED BUILDINGS IN AREAS .95-D.8 AND 1.0-D.55.

VIOLET 2-1 AND 2-2 LAUNCHED A ROCKET ATTACK AGAINST CLUSTER OF BUILDINGS SOUTH OF THE CLIFF AREA IN TARGET AREA .70-A.50. RUN WAS MADE FROM SOUTHEAST TO NORTHWEST, ALTITUDE 4,000 FEET. ELEMENT BEGAN RELEASING ROCKETS AT 1,800 FEET DOWN TO 900 FEET, SELECTIVE FIRE. THREE DIRECT HITS OBSERVED ON TARGET, EIGHT ROCKETS BLANKETED TARGET AREA AND ONE ROCKET HUNG UP AND WAS RETURNED TO BASE. VIOLET 2-3 AND 2-4 ATTACKED HOUSING IN AREA 1.60-A.30 FROM THE SAME DIRECTION AND ALTITUDE. OF THE TWELVE ROCKETS LAUNCHED, TWO DIRECT HITS WERE OBSERVED, SEVEN ROCKETS BRACKETED TARGET, AND THREE HUNG UP. VIOLET 2-3 RELEASED HIS HUNG-UP AT SEA AND VIOLET 2-4 RETURNED TO BASE WITH TWO ROCKETS.

VIOLET 10-1 AND 10-2 ATTACKED BUILDING IN AREA 3.20-A.40. RUN WAS MADE FROM 6,000 FEET. ROCKETS WERE FIRED SELECTIVELY FROM 2,000 FEET TO 300 FEET. TWO DIRECT HITS WERE OBSERVED, NINE BRACKETED TARGET AND ONE HUNG UP. VIOLET 10-1 RELEASED HUNG UP ROCKET AT SEA AFTER WITHDRAWING FROM TARGET. FLIGHT ALSO STRAFED TARGET.

VIOLET 10-3 AND 10-4 ATTACKED BUILDINGS IN AREA 3.30-A.45. RUN WAS MADE FROM NORTHEAST TO SOUTHWEST. ROCKETS FIRE SELECTIVELY FROM 800 DOWN TO 50 FEET. NO DIRECT HITS OBSERVED. ELEVEN ROCKETS FIRED, ONE HUNG UP AND WAS RETURNED TO BASE.

NO A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED ON THE MISSION.

5. A. .3 CUMULUS BASE AT 1,500 FEET OVER TARGET.
 B. GOOD, NO RADIO CONTACT WITH 'SLATS'.

6. UNDETERMINED

7. 32 X 100 GP BOMBS 1/4-5 SEC DELAY FUSES. 11,175 ROUNDS .50 CAL, 44 X 4.5 ROCKETS, 6,000 GALLONS GASOLINE.

8. NONE

WILLIAMS

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

8 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-2
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-84

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR (24) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB AND LAUNCH ROCKETS AGAINST BUILDINGS, GUN POSITIONS AND RUNWAY, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJ. WILLIAMS, LTS. DELP, KENDALL, MARCINKO (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. SHAFFER, MALONE, BYRAM (VIOLET 3)
CAPT. FITZSIMMONS, LTS. TRUMBOUR, PETTY, BARRETT, (VIOLET 4)
LTS. JACOBSON, DUNN, STAMPE, KEARNEY (VIOLET 8)
LTS. LOFLIN, DUNNING, GRAY, KENNEDY (VIOLET 10)
LTS. KENDLE, RHODY, STROUD, KIMMICH (VIOLET 5)

TAKEOFF: 0715 - LAND: 1005

FLIGHTS ARRIVED OVER PAGAN AT 0815. VIOLET 4-1 AND 4-2 ATTACKED THE BUILDINGS AT THE SOUTH END OF THE LAKE. TWO PASSES WERE MADE ON THE TARGET, ONE FROM THE EAST AND ONE FROM THE NORTHEAST. ALTITUDE 8,000 FT., ROCKETS FIRED SELECTIVELY FROM 2,000 FT. TO MINIMUM ALTITUDE. TWO ROCKETS WERE OBSERVED TO HIT TARGET, SIX NEAR MISSES, AND TWO ROCKETS EXPLODED OFF THE TARGET. BOTH PILOTS RETURNED TO BASE WITH ONE ROCKET WHICH DID NOT FIRE DUE TO MALFUNCTION. VIOLET 4-3 AND 4-4 ATTACKED THE SOUTH BUILDINGS CLUSTER ALONG NORTH-SOUTH ROAD ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ISLAND, NORTH OF THE AIRSTRIP. ROCKETS WERE SALVOED AND BRACKETED THE TARGET. VIOLET 4-4 RETURNED TO BASE WITH TWO ROCKETS WHICH FAILED TO FIRE. TEN ROCKETS EXPLODED IN THE TARGET AREA. VIOLET 4 FLIGHT REJOINED AND GINGLED NORTH STRAFING BUILDINGS ON THE EXTREME NORTH END OF THE ISLAND AND ALSO THE GUN POSITIONS ON THE SLOPE OF THE GINDER CONE AT THE BASE OF THE EXTREME EAST END OF THE CLIFFS SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY.

VIOLET 3 ATTACKED BUILDINGS ALONG THE N-S ROAD NORTH OF THE RUNWAY. RUN WAS MADE FROM EAST TO WEST, ROCKETS FIRED IN SALVO. VIOLET 3 LEADER OBTAINED THREE DIRECT HITS ON NORTH BUILDINGS. VIOLET 3-2, OBSERVED FOUR OF HIS ROCKETS TO BRACKET THE TARGET. TWO ROCKETS FAILED TO FIRE, ONE OF WHICH WAS FINALLY RELEASED AT SEA, AND THE OTHER WAS RETURNED TO BASE. VIOLET 3-3 AND 3-4 OBSERVED THEIR ROCKETS TO BRACKET TARGET.

VIOLET 3-4 RETURNED TO BASE WITH ONE ROCKET WHICH DID NOT FIRE DUE TO MALFUNCTION. FLIGHT ALSO STRAFED TARGET AREA. FIRE STARTED IN ONE OF THE BUILDINGS, APPEARED TO BE VERY FLAMABLE MATERIAL SUCH AS GASOLINE.

VIOLET 10, DIVE BOMBED A/GUN POSITIONS LOCATED BETWEEN THE BARRIER ON THE WEST COAST AND SMALL WOODED AREA NORTH OF RUNWAY. RUN WAS MADE FROM NE TO SW, 8,500 FT. ALTITUDE, RELEASE AT 1,500 FT. SIX BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE TARGET

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-2 (CONTINUED)
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-

4. CONT'D

AREA AND TWO IN THE WOODED AREA NORTH OF THE RUNWAY. GASOLINE OR OIL FIRE STARTED IN THE VICINITY OF GUN POSITIONS. THIS FLIGHT RECONNOITERED THE EAST AND WEST COAST OF THE NARROW NECK OF THE ISLAND WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. VIOLET 8, DIVE BOMBED ENEMY STRONG POINT CONSISTING OF ARTILLERY POSITIONS AND PILL BOXES LOCATED WEST OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE ALONG THE WEST COAST OF THE ISLAND. BOMB RUN WAS MADE FROM S-N, ALTITUDE 9,000 FT., WITH RELEASE AT 4,000 FT. THREE BOMBS EXPLODED IN TARGET AREA, ONE FELL SHORT OF TARGET, TWO FELL IN OCEAN AND TWO IN THE LAKE NORTH OF THE TARGET. VIOLET 5, DIVE BOMBED BUILDINGS ON THE EAST SIDE OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE. RUNS WAS MADE FROM NE TO SW. SIX BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE TARGET AREA AND TWO FELL 200 YDS. SHORT OF THE TARGET. FLIGHT THEN STRAFED THE GUN PITS ON THE SLOPE OF THE CLIFF COME EAST OF THE RUNWAY AND BUILDINGS ON THE RIDGE SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY.

VIOLET 1 ORBITED TARGET UNTIL ALL FLIGHTS HAD ATTACKED; AND THEN DIVE BOMBED RUNWAY AND TAXI STRIPS NORTH OF RUNWAY. RUN BEGAN AT 3,000 FT. WITH BOMB RELEASE AT 4,000 FT. FOUR 500 LB. BOMBS EXPLODED ON THE NORTH TAXI STRIP AND FOUR 500 LB. BOMBS ON THE EAST END OF THE RUNWAY. FLIGHT STRAFED CLIFF GUN POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY. NO A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. 2/10 CLOUD COVERAGE AT 2,000 FT.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR.

6. UNDETERMINED.

7. 8 X 500# G.P. BOMBS W/INST. FUSES, 24 X 250# G.P. BOMBS W/INST. FUSES, 42 X 4.5 ROCKETS, 5,165 RDS .50 GAL. M.G., 6,800 GALS. GASOLINE.

8. SLATS WAS NOT SCRAMBLED FOR MISSION, BUT REMAINED ON ALERT AT BASE.
RECONNAISSANCE OF ALL ISLANDS NEGATIVE. RUNWAY AT PAGAN UNSERVICEABLE.

WILLIAMS.

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

10 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-3
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-86

1. A. TWELVE (12) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. ESCORT B-24'S TO PAGAN ENROUTE TO THE BONIN ISLANDS. STRAFE BUILDINGS SOUTH OF CLIFF AREA, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. RHODY, KENDALL, LUSTIG (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. SHAFFER, GRAY, DUNNING (VIOLET 3)
LTS. JACOBSON, BYRAM, STAMPE, BARRIETT (VIOLET 8)

TAKEOFF : 0845 - LAND : 1154

AFTER RENDEZVOUS WITH NINETEEN (19) B-24'S OVER SAIPAN FORMATION PICKED UP VECTOR OF 300 DEGREES. P-47'S OF THE SQUADRON FLEW AS HIGH COVER FOR THE BOMBERS, WHILE SIX (6) FIGHTERS OF THE 333RD SQUADRON ACTED AS LOW AND INTERMEDIATE COVER. P-47'S LEFT THE BOMBERS EIGHTY (80) MILES OUT FROM SAIPAN AFTER FORMATION HAD CHANGED COURSE TO 320 DEGREES. FLIGHTS RETURNED TO THE MARIANAS CHAIN ON VECTOR OF 045 DEGREES TURNED AT ANATHAN AND FLEW NORTH TO PAGAN.

FLIGHTS OVER PAGAN AT 1015. AFTER 333RD SQUADRON HAD COMPLETED THEIR ATTACK, VIOLET 1 STRAFED THE AREA BELOW THE CLIFFS SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY, AND VIOLET 3 & 8 STRAFED BUILDINGS ON PLATEAU ABOVE CLIFFS SOUTH OF RUNWAY ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE ISLAND. ONE STRAFING PASS WAS MADE BY ALL FLIGHTS FROM EAST TO WEST. RESULTS UNDETERMINED OBSERVED MEAGRE TO MODERATE, INACCURATE MACHINE GUN AND 20MM FIRE FROM BASE OF CLIFFS SOUTH OF RUNWAY, WOODED AREA NORTH OF RUNWAY, AND WOODED AREA NORTHEAST OF RUNWAY.

5. A. .4 AT 3,000 FEET WITH TOPS AT 3,500 FEET. .7 AT 4,000 FEET TO 12,000 FEET.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 3,765 ROUNDS .50 CAL. 3,600 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. P-47 OF THE 333RD SQUADRON HIT OVER THE TARGET. PILOT OBSERVED TO BAIL OUT FIVE (5) MILES NORTHWEST GURGUAN ISLAND. VISUAL CONTACT MADE WITH 'SLATS', PILOT PICKED UP.

WILLIAMS

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

14 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-4
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-70

1. A. TWENTY-FOUR (24) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB STORAGE AREA ALONG EAST COAST, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. MAJ. WILLIAMS, LTS. DANYLO, BARRETT, SHAFER (VIOLET 1)
LTS. LOFLIN, KEARNEY, STAMPE, LUSTIG (VIOLET 7)
LTS. KENDALL, WEBER, BYRAM, DELP (VIOLET 9)
LTS. STROUD, MORRIS, DUNN, ELENDER (VIOLET 10)
LTS. PETTY, LA ROCHELLE, ANDERSON, TRUMBOUR (VIOLET 3)
LTS. LIEBGOFF, KENNEDY, COX, DOHERTY (VIOLET 4)

TAKEOFF: 0658 - LAND: 0933

FLIGHTS ARRIVED OVER TARGET AT 0800. DIVE BOMB RUNS WERE MADE FROM 8,000 FT. WITH RELEASE AT 1,500 TO 3,000 FT. RUNS WERE GENERALLY FROM NORTH TO SOUTH AND EAST TO WEST. 33 X 250 LB. G.P. BOMBS EXPLODED IN THE TARGET AREA. 2 X 250 LB. G.P. BOMBS LANDED IN THE WATER EAST OF THE TARGET AND 13 X 250 LB. G.P. BOMBS EXPLODED NE AND W OF TARGET AREA. ALL FLIGHTS MADE ONE STRAFING ATTACK ON THE TARGET AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS. NO A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED.

VIOLET 7-4 OBSERVED WHAT APPEARED TO BE A SIGNAL LIGHT BLINKING ON THE SOUTHWEST COAST OF ALAMAGAN.

5. A. 6/10 CUMULUS CLOUDS AT 1,500 TO 8,000 FT. OVER TARGET.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
6. UNDETERMINED.
7. 48 X 250 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/INST. FUSES.
9,115 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G.
6, 240 GALS. GAS.
8. VISUAL CONTACT MADE WITH "SKYLARKER" OVER ALAMAGAN ISLAND AT 0745. LARGE CAVES, COMMUNICATIONS TRENCHES, AND FIRE PITS, OBSERVED IN TARGET AREA.

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

20 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-85
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-15

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB ENEMY BUILDINGS AND STORAGE AREA NORTH EAST OF
CINDER CONE, NORTH EAST OF RUNWAY, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. SHAFFER, FLAGERMAN, DEGHARY (VIOLET 2)
LTS. LOFLIN, BACH, BARRETT, MATHIS (VIOLET 7)

LT. FLAGERMAN, VIOLET 2-3, DEVELOPED GENERATOR TROUBLE IN
THE VICINITY OF SARIGAN IS. HE AND HIS WINGMAN LT. DEGHARY,
VIOLET 2-4, ATTACKED THE ALTERNATE TARGET SARIGAN ISLAND,
RELEASING 4 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS. ELEMENT RETURNED TO BASE
AT 0544. FLIGHTS OVER TARGET AT 0550.

VIOLET 2 DIVE BOMBED BUILDING AREA FROM E TO W, FROM 7,500
FT. WITH BOMB RELEASE AT 2,000 FT. BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO
BRACKET THE TARGET EXPLODING 50-100 YARDS FROM THE BUILDING.
VIOLET 7 DIVE BOMBED THE STORAGE AREA FROM THE SAME DIREC-
TION AND ALTITUDE. FOUR BOMBS EXPLODED ON THE TARGET AND
FOUR 100 YARDS WEST OF THE TARGET.

VIOLET 2 STRAFED THE WOODED AREA EAST OF THE RUNWAY FROM
MINIMUM ALTITUDE WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS.

VIOLET 7 STRAFED BUILDING NORTH OF THE RUNWAY IN THE VICINITY
OF SHOMUSHON VILLAGE.

RECONNAISSANCE FOR RADAR INSTALLATIONS IN THE VICINITY OF THE
EAST END OF RUNWAY CARRIED OUT. PILOTS OBSERVED TWO LARGE
WOODED POLES IN ASSIGNED AREA. THESE UPRIGHTS CONTAINS
WOODEN CROSSPIECES AND IT RESEMBLED A MATTRESS RADAR ANTENNA.
HOWEVER, ALL PILOTS BELIEVE THE STRUCTURE WAS ENTIRELY OF
WOODEN CONSTRUCTION.
NO A/A ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. .1 CUMULUS AT 2,000 FT.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 16 X 500 LB. G.P. BOMBS W/INST. FUSES.
1,700 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G. - 1,760 GALS. GAS.
8. "SKYLARKER" CONTACTED OVER ALAMAGAN.

WILLIAMS

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

21 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-36
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-14

1. A. TEN (10) P-47D'S
B. ONE (1) T/E (POSSIBLE NICK)
2. A. ONE (1) T/E AIRCRAFT DESTROYED IN THE AIR.
B. NONE
3. INTERCEPT AND ESCORT STRIKE FORCE OF THIRTY-TWO (32) B-24'S ON IWO JIMA MISSION AT MINAMI ISLAND.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. GRAY, RUFF, STROUD (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. KENDALL, JACOBSON, LOFLIN (VIOLET 2)
LTS. LIEBGOTT, COX (VIOLET 4)

TAKEOFF: 0825 - LAND: 1503

AT 0825 TEN (10) P-47D'S OF THE 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, TEN (10) P-47D'S OF THE 73RD FIGHTER SQUADRON, AND THREE (3) B-24'S OF THE 27TH BOMB SQUADRON TOOK OFF FROM ISELY FIELD, SAIPAN.

FLIGHTS RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE THREE (3) B-24'S ACTING AS NAVIGATION ESCORT OVER MARPI PT. AT 0839. PURPOSE OF MISSION TO INTERCEPT STRIKE FORCE OF THIRTY-TWO (32) B-24'S ATTACKING IWO JIMA. THE INTERCEPTION TO TAKE PLACE IN THE VICINITY OF MINAMI ISLAND.

VISUAL CONTACT MADE WITH B-24 STRIKE FORCE WHEN FIGHTER FORMATION WAS FIFTEEN (15) MILES SOUTH OF MINAMI ISLAND.

BOMBER FORMATION PASSED FIGHTER FORMATION ON THE PORT SIDE, FIGHTERS THEN HEADING NORTH.

AS THE BOMBERS DREW NEAR THE FIGHTERS A TWIN ENGINE ENEMY AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED AT FOUR O'CLOCK POSITION FROM THE BOMBER FORMATION AT 16,000 FEET, FLYING PARALLEL WITH THE BOMBERS.

VIOLET 1, 2 TURNED TO THE LEFT BEHIND BOMBERS AND PULLED UP BETWEEN ENEMY AIRCRAFT AND BOMBER FORMATION.

VIOLET 2-3 AND 2-4 PULLED OUT TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

THE ENEMY PLANE MADE A TURN INTO MAJOR WILLIAMS WHO WAS ON HIS LEFT HE PASSED UNDER VIOLET 1 FLIGHT IN A DIVING TURN TO THE LEFT, AT THIS POINT CAPTAIN TENNANT VIOLET 2 LEADER OPENED FIRE ON HIM FROM 1,500 FEET, THIS BURST WAS INEFFECTIVE. HIS SECOND BURST WENT INTO THE RUDDER AND THE THIRD BURST HIT HIS LEFT ENGINE. PARTS OF THE ENGINE FELL OFF AND CAPTAIN TENNANT PULLED AWAY. IAS OF ENEMY 220 INCREASING TO 300 MPH IN DIVE. VIOLET 2-2, LT. KENDALL, ATTACKED IMMEDIATELY AFTER CAPTAIN TENNANT HAD PULLED OFF. HE FIRED A LONG BURST (285 RDS) AT THE E/A'S RIGHT ENGINE, BUT LEAD WAS TOO GREAT AND TRACER WAS OBSERVED TO HIT AREA BETWEEN RIGHT ENGINE AND CANOPY WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS. WHEN LT. KENDALL BEGAN HIS ATTACK HE OBSERVED BLACK SMOKE COMING FROM THE LEFT ENGINE OF THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT.

AS CAPTAIN TENNANT AND LT. KENDALL PULLED AWAY VIOLET 2-3 LT. JACOBSON PULLED IN BEHIND THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT, WHO THEN WAS OBSERVED TO BE TRAILING SMOKE FROM BOTH ENGINES, AND GOT IN A 30 DEGREE DEFLECTION SHOT. TWO LONG BURSTS WERE FIRED AND HITS WERE OBSERVED BETWEEN

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-5
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10- (CONT'D)

RIGHT ENGINE AND FUSELAGE. AS VIOLET 2-4 LT. LOFLIN CLOSED AND FIRED HE OBSERVED THREE BURSTS OF FLAME COME OUT OF THE LEFT ENGINE AND THE RIGHT ENGINE ALSO BEGAN TO SMOKE. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THESE EXPLOSIONS HE PULLED UP SHARPLY AND THEN HIS RIGHT WING WENT DOWN AND HE ROLLED OVER ON HIS BACK.

AS MAJOR WILLIAMS ATTACKED HE OBSERVED THE LEFT ENGINE BLAZING. AS MAJOR WILLIAMS FIRED THE ENEMY AIRCRAFT TURNED TO THE RIGHT. ENEMY PLANE RETURNED THE FIRE FROM A DORSAL POSITION. AS THE ENEMY PLANE TURNED TO THE RIGHT VIOLET 1-2 LT. GRAY OBSERVED THAT HE APPEARED TO BE OUT OF CONTROL. VIOLET 1-2 FIRED A LONG BURST FROM 400 YARDS. VIOLET 1-2 CLOSED WITH HIM AS HE BEGAN TO GO STRAIGHT DOWN. WHEN LT. GRAY REALIZED THE PLANE WAS OUT OF CONTROL HE PULLED UP AND WATCHED HIM CRASH AND EXPLODE IN THE WATER.

ENEMY PLANE SHOT DOWN 15-20 MILES SOUTH OF MINAMI ISLAND. FLIGHTS REFORMED WITH ESCORT BOMBERS AND RETURNED TO BASE.

5. A. FRONT ENCOUNTERED 300-325 MILES FROM BASE ON COURSE 336 DEGREES MAG.
.5 AT 4,000 FEET AT MINAMI.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR.
6. ONE (1) T/E ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED.
7. 3,800 ROUNDS .50 CAL. 5,849 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. ENEMY AIRCRAFT TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS NICK. GUN CAMERA FILM WILL BE DEVELOPED 22 OCTOBER 1944. DISTANCE FLOWN 1,160 NAUTICAL MILES. TIME SIX HOURS AND THIRTY-EIGHT MINUTES. INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS BEING SUBMITTED. OPERATIONAL REPORT ON ALL AIRCRAFT PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION ALSO BEING PREPARED. SUCCESS OF THIS INTERCEPT MISSION DUE PRIMARILY TO THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF CAPTAIN N.G. MEHAFFEY, CO OF THE 27TH BOMB SQUADRON.
T/E ENEMY AIRCRAFT OD IN COLOR, RONDEL ON LEFT WING, WHITE MARKINGS ON TAIL, DORSAL GUN, POSSIBLE 20 MM IN TAIL.

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

23 OCTOBER 1944

SUBJECT: INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS, ESCORT MISSION,
MINAMI ISLAND, OCTOBER 21, 1944.

TO : S-2, 318TH FIGHTER GROUP, A.P.O. #244.

CAPT. CHARLES W. TENNANT, FLIGHT LEADER, VIOLET 2.

LT. STROUD, VIOLET 1-4, CALLED IN THE ENEMY PLANE. AT THAT TIME I WAS BELOW HIM SO I THREW THE WATER TO MY SHIP AND GLIMBED TO GET ABOVE HIM. MY ELEMENT GOT AROUND TO HIS RIGHT SIDE AND MY WINGMAN AND MYSELF WENT TO HIS LEFT.

THE JAP STARTED A SHARP DIVING TURN TO THE LEFT AND I FOLLOWED. I FIRED A VERY SHORT BURST AND OBSERVED INCENDIARY HIT HIS RIGHT WING TIP. I KNEW THIS BURST WAS INEFFECTIVE. MY SECOND BURST WENT INTO HIS TAIL ASSEMBLY. MY LAST BURST, A LONG ONE, FROM ABOUT 20 DEGREES RAKED THE PLANE. I BEGAN FIRING FROM ABOUT 1,200 FT. TO 700 FT. AWAY FROM THE JAP. I OBSERVED HIS LEFT ENGINE START TO SMOKE AND PIECES OF HIS COWLING FALL OFF. HIS BANK SEEMED TO INCREASE TO THE LEFT AFTER I HAD FINISHED FIRING. HIS SPEED IN THE SHALLOW DIVE WAS 220 TO 300 M.P.H., 1AS.

AS I PULLED AWAY MY WINGMAN ATTACKED.

LT. HOWARD J. KENDALL, WINGMAN, VIOLET 2-2.

I WAS NUMBER TWO MAN IN CAPT. TENNANT'S FLIGHT. AS SOON AS THE ENEMY PLANE WAS CALLED IN I SAW IT. I THREW THE WATER TO MY SHIP AT THE SAME TIME CAPT. TENNANT DID. I CUT IN TO THE LEFT OF CAPT. TENNANT AND GOT MY LEAD ON THE JAP AS HE TURNED. I FIRED BUT MY GUN SWITCH WASN'T TURNED ON. I DROPPED BACK BEHIND CAPT. TENNANT.

I OBSERVED CAPT. TENNANT FIRE FROM ABOUT 65 DEGREES, BUT I DIDN'T NOTICE ANY RESULTS AT THE TIME. HE FIRED AGAIN FROM 20 DEGREES AND THE LEFT ENGINE STARTED TO SMOKE. PIECES OF THE JAP'S COWLING FELL OFF AND FLEW BETWEEN CAPT. TENNANT AND MYSELF.

WHEN CAPT. TENNANT PULLED AWAY I PULLED IN AND FIRED. I AIMED AT THE RIGHT ENGINE BUT OVERLEAD. I DREW MY LEAD BACK AND OBSERVED MY TRACER HIT AREA OF THE RIGHT ENGINE AND CANOPY. I FIRED ABOUT 265 RDS. WHEN I PULLED AWAY THE LEFT ENGINE WAS SMOKING. PLANE APPEARED TO BE IN CONTROL STILL TURNING TO THE LEFT IN A SHALLOW DIVE.

LT. ROY A. JACOBSON, ELEMENT LEADER, VIOLET 2-3.

AFTER ENEMY AIRCRAFT WAS REPORTED IN, I PULLED OVER TO THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIM. THIS PUT SIX PLANES ON HIS LEFT AND TWO TO HIS RIGHT. AS I WAS CLOSING ON HIS RIGHT HE BROKE TO THE LEFT TOWARD MAJOR WILLIAMS. AS THE JAP TURNED LEFT, HE WENT INTO A SHALLOW DIVE AND WNET UNDER MAJ. WILLIAMS FLIGHT. I ALSO TURNED LEFT AND PULLED IN BEHIND CAPT. TENNANT'S ELEMENT WAITING TO

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INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS (CONTINUED)

GO IN ON HIM.

AFTER CAPT. TENNANT AND LT. KENDALL HAD COMPLETED THEIR ATTACK I PULLED IN BEHIND THE JAP. BOTH HIS ENGINES APPEARED TO BE TRAILING SMOKE, BUT HE DID SEEM TO BE UNDER CONTROL.

I GOT IN A 30 DEGREE DEFLECTION SHOT. MY FIRST BURST WAS HIGH AND OVER HIS RIGHT WING. I FIRED AGAIN AND HIT THE WING AREA BETWEEN HIS RIGHT ENGINE AND FUSELAGE. I CLOSED TO ABOUT 200 FT. FIRING ALL THE WAY AND THEN BROKE AWAY TO THE RIGHT OF HIM. HE STILL MAINTAINED HIS DIVING TURN TO THE LEFT. HIS IAS APPEARED TO BE ABOUT 250-275 IN DIVING TURN. MY SPEED WAS ABOUT 350 M.P.H. IAS.

AFTER I PULLED UP AND GAINED ABOUT 2,000 FT. ALTITUDE, I AGAIN SAW HIM. AT THIS TIME HE WAS OUT OF CONTROL AND FALLING TOWARD THE WATER. HE HIT AND EXPLODED. I BELIEVE THE THE CREW WENT IN WITH THE SHIP.

LT. WILLIAM A. COFFIN, WINGMAN, VIOLET 2-4.

AS SOON AS I OBSERVED THE TWIN-ENGINE ENEMY PLANE, I OPENED MY DISTANCE BETWEEN LT. JACOBSON, MY ELEMENT LEADER, AND MYSELF TO ABOUT FIVE SHIP LENGTHS.

WE PULLED AROUND BEHIND OUR BOMBER FORMATION AND JACOBSON CAME UP ON THE RIGHT OF THE JAP AND I GOT IN TRAIL WITH THE JAP.

I OBSERVED CAPT. TENNANT AND HIS WINGMAN ATTACK. WHEN CAPT. TENNANT FIRED I OBSERVED PIECES OF THE LEFT ENGINE COWLING FALL OFF THE SHIP AND TRACER ENTER THE TAIL ASSEMBLY. JUST PRIOR TO CAPT. TENNANTS ATTACK THE JAP HAD STARTED A DIVING TURN TO THE LEFT.

AS THE JAP TURNED LEFT, I ALSO BEGAN A TURN TO THE LEFT THAT PUT ME IN FRONT OF MY ELEMENT LEADER. AS THE JAP INCREASED HIS TURN TO THE LEFT, MY ELEMENT LEADER TURNED INSIDE OF ME TO THE LEFT AND THAT PUT HIM IN FRONT OF ME AND IN ATTACK POSITION.

MY POSITION AT THIS TIME WAS BEHIND AND OUT OF RANGE WITH MY LEADER TO THE LEFT OF THE ENEMY PLANE. I FIRED A SHORT BURST OUT OF RANGE IN AN ATTEMPT TO STRAIGHTEN THE ENEMY PLANE UP. HE MAINTAINED HIS DIVING TURNS, AND LT. JACOBSON ATTACKED. I OBSERVED LT. JACOBSON MAKE A REAR QUARTER ATTACK AND TRACER SEEMED TO GO OVER THE TOP OF THE CANOPY FROM LEFT TO RIGHT.

WHEN JACOBSON PULLED AWAY I CLOSED AND FIRED. TRACER HIT HIS LEFT ENGINE AND IT BURST INTO FLAME. HIS RIGHT ENGINE BEGAN TO SMOKE ALSO. THE JAP PULLED UP SHARPLY AND THEN WENT OVER ON HIS RIGHT WING. HE SEEMED TO BE OUT OF CONTROL AND BEGAN DIVING STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE OCEAN. I IMMEDIATELY PULLED UP AND WENT INTO MUTUAL SUPPORT WITH LT. JACOBSON.

DURING THE TIME I PULLED UP AND JOINED LT. JACOBSON, LT. GRAY ATTACKED AS THE JAP WAS SPINNING INTO THE SEA. I OBSERVED THE ENEMY SHIP CRASH AND EXPLODE IN THE WATER.

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

26 OCTOBER 1944

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #10-7
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #10-18

1. A. EIGHT (8) P-47D'S
B. NONE
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. DIVE BOMB AND STRAFE ENEMY BUILDINGS AND GUN EMPLACEMENTS ON CLIFF SOUTH OF RUNWAY, PAGAN ISLAND.
4. LTS. LOFLIN, ENGLISH, STAMPE, WISCHER (VIOLET 3)
LTS. FLAGERMAN, LICHTER, BACH, BARRETT (VIOLET 7)

TAKEOFF: 0818 - LAND: 1042

FLIGHTS OVER THE TARGET AT 0920. VIOLET 3 DIVE BOMBED BUILDINGS ON THE CLIFF SOUTH OF THE HANGER AREA AND NORTH OF EAST-WEST ROAD. RUN WAS MADE FROM 9,000 FEET WITH RELEASE AT 1,000 FEET. FOUR NEAR MISSES WERE OBSERVED ON THE TARGET WITH UNDETERMINED RESULTS

VIOLET 7 DIVE BOMBED THE BUILDINGS SOUTHEAST OF THE HANGER AREA ON THE TOP OF THE CLIFF, NORTH OF THE EAST-WEST ROAD. FOUR BOMBS WERE OBSERVED TO EXPLODE WITHIN TWENTY-FIVE YARDS OF THE TARGET. NO DIRECT HITS OBSERVED.

BOTH FLIGHTS STRAFED GUN POSITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS TRENCHES ON RIM OF CLIFF SOUTH OF HANGER AREA. STRAFING ATTACK WAS MADE FROM WEST TO EAST AT MINIMUM ALTITUDE.

MEAGRE SMALL ARMS FIRE ENCOUNTERED AT BASE OF CLIFFS SOUTH OF HANGER.

5. A. .6 CUMULUS AT 1,500 TO 2,500 FEET.
B. LOUD AND CLEAR
6. UNDETERMINED
7. 16 X 100# GP BOMBS W/INST. FUSES. 2,970 ROUNDS 50 CAL.
2,000 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. 'SKYLARKER' WAS NOT CONTACTED UNTIL FLIGHTS WERE ENROUTE TO BASE AT A POINT FORTY MILES SOUTH OF PAGAN ISLAND. AT THIS TIME 'SKYLARKER' WAS HEADED NORTH TO RENDEZVOUS POINT WHICH WAS TO HAVE BEEN ALAMAGAN ISLAND.

WILLIAMS