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Historical Division AFPOA

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6776-4119



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

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.2

~~SECRET~~

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

March 1, 1945 - March 31, 1945

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. Organization: Negative.

5. Strength: (Personnel)

1 March 1945

Officers 69  
Enlisted men 245

31 March 1945

Officers 73  
Enlisted men 246

6. Strength: (Airplanes)

1 March 1945

24 P-47D's  
9 P-38L's

31 March 1945

24 P-47D's

7. Losses: (Airplanes)

9- P-38L's returned to the Depot Group at Guam.

DECLASSIFIED  
DOD DIR 5200.9

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## ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF. (CON'T)

## Narrative History:

During the month of March 1945, six, four plane, armed reconnaissance missions were dispatched against the enemy airfield at Pagan Island. Although targets consisting of loose stores and small frame building were found, no major military targets were located. Fires were started by strafing attacks among the buildings and small quantities of loose stores. These attacks are making it increasingly difficult for the enemy to continue his existence on Pagan Island. The Flights did not encounter any enemy opposition, either on the ground or in the air. (See Mission Reports #3-1 to 3-6 Incl.)

Continuous Combat Air Patrol was maintained by the Squadron during the month, however no enemy air opposition was met. This lack of enemy air opposition in this area is due to the constant pounding of the enemy bases at Truk, Marcus, and the landings at Iwo Jima.

The nine (9) P-38L's assigned to the squadron as part of the P-38 Provisional Squadron were flown to Guam and turned over to the Air Depot Group on the fourth and sixth of the month. These long range planes are no longer needed in this area as they are going replaced by the new P-47N during the early part of April. At that time all P-47D's will be ferried to Guam, and then back to Oahu.

In preparation for the change over from the P-47D to the "N", Capt. William Loflin, S/Sgts Sprout, G.M. Smith, and Malazzo were sent to Oahu on March 13th, to make acceptance flights and checks on the P-47N as it arrives from the states. After the aircraft are completely checked they will be flown to Guam, or shipped by carrier, from which point they will be assigned to the squadrons of the Group. Additional personnel consisting of Lts. Stampe, Barrett, Rhody, Danylo, Gibson, Elender, Crew Chiefs L.R. Smith, Drozda, Fosback, were also

## ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF. (CON'T)

## Narrative History Con't:

sent back for the same purpose. Lt. Carlson, Squadron Engineering Officer, and eight enlisted men from the engineering section were ordered to Guam to inspect all P-47N's arriving there enroute to the 318th Group from Oahu.

Although squadron activities in the air were limited during the month, the tempo of ground activities increased greatly. The squadron has been alerted for movement to a new base in a more forward area. This news was certainly welcome in that it will give us another chance to engage the enemy in the air, something that has become a rarity in this area. Although the entire squadron has not been informed of the location of their new base, the information was given to those officers whose duties require it. The new base is to be Okinawa, well within range of the new P-47N.

Numerous meetings were held in the squadron and with group personnel to determine our needs during the new operation. At the outset the greatest problem encountered was caused by the lack of information on the new plane. AS the engineering section received the necessary information this situation was corrected. Our supply problems were numerous. The equipment now in use has been in the forward area for nearly a year, and has been used under combat conditions, consequently much of it needs replacement. However, due to the fact that the Tenth Army has a priority on all equipment in the area, the squadron will not be able to get replacements on vehicles, generators, and other heavy equipment. Some tentage was replaced, but many of the tents still in our possession are

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## ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF. (CON'T)

## Narrative History Con't:

in very poor condition. Some small items were replaced but only after constant hammering at the supply people on the island. It is felt by this organization that every effort should be made by the service organizations to see that a unit moving into combat be equipped with good equipment and material.

The squadron constructed its own packing and crating material, after each section had submitted its requirements as to space needed for equipment absolutely necessary for combat operation. All surplus equipment and parts were turned in to supply.

All field equipment in the hands of squadron personnel was carefully checked. Lost or damaged items were replaced, and emergency rations and one <sup>unit</sup> mission of fire issued.

Towards the latter part of the month two liberty ships were assigned to the group for its transport to the new base. These ships were the USS Hall Young and the USS Kenmore. Complete inspections were made of both ships by section officers. The USS Kenmore was to be used as the troop transport, and the Hall Young as the cargo ship. The Kenmore was found to be more than adequate for the number of personnel to be transported.

Berthing plans, detail rosters, and duty assignments were set up for all officers and enlisted men of the ground echelon who were to embark the early part of April.

By the end of March the entire squadron was completely packed and ready to leave East Field, Saipan for Okinawa. Plans had been made for the flying personnel and other personnel of the air echelon to move to Kobler Field, Saipan prior to the embarkation of the ground echelon. Operations and training will be carried out from that base until departure of the planes for Okinawa sometime during the latter part of April or the early part of May.

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

Chronological History, 1 March - 31 March 1945

1. Four P-47's on an armed Recon. to Pagan Island.
2. Lt. Edward J. Liebgett left for Gunnery School in the United States.  
Lt. Edwin A. Zimmerli AAFPOA Hawaii  
Lt. Leigen, Charles W. to Admin. AAFPOA, Hawaii  
Captain Raymond H. Todd assigned to 19th  
Pfc. Gerald L. Walker, Station Hospital.  
Cpl. Furtado, Joseph to 176 Station Hospital. Squadron on CAP.
3. Captain John A. McDonald, AAFPOA Admin. on to General Staff School, U.S.A. Sqdn CAP
4. Four P-47's on an armed Recon. to Pagan Island.  
S/Sgt. James F. Kempfer - Furlough to States  
S/Sgt. John L. Strong - Furlough to States  
Sgt. Everett T. Adams - Furlough to States  
Sgt. Paul P. Garbarine - Furlough to States  
Sgt. Joe Nazareff - Furlough to States  
Sgt. Gilbert J. Reles - Furlough to States  
Sgt. Delferd D. Voreis - Furlough to States  
Group shipment to the United States.
5. Cpl. Elmer C. McMurray, Assigned to Sqd. on the Alert, armed reconn. Pagan
6. On Alert, ferried to Guam three P-38's  
1st Lt. Charles W. Jackson, 1st Lt. Ernest J. Tyndall, 2d Lt. Howard G. Cornia,  
2d Lt. Thomas Graham, 2d Lt. Merle A. Gere, 2d Lt. George C. Slusser and F/O  
Charles L. Hunter, all the above are pilots assigned to 19th.  
M/Sgt. Edward J. Kelly, M/Sgt Howard R. Klitzke, T/Sgt. Orville A. Dehmlow, T/Sgt.  
Orville A. Holden, T/Sgt. Herschel A. Setser, T/Sgt. Jehnie E. Sheek, T/Sgt  
George E. Tykvart, T/Sgt. Nicholas A. Vallegra, T/Sgt. Harled, W. White, S/Sgt.  
Lester Hall, S/Sgt/ Charles H. Heinemann, Jr. S/Sgt. Ottis Hudson, Jr. S/Sgt.  
Fay F. Lear, S/Sgt. Melvin F. Mann, S/Sgt. William Meyer, Jr. Sgt. Howard R.  
Senical, Pvt. Bethel R. Rowsey, Pvt. Robert A. Shelten. All above enlisted men  
assigned to the 19th.
7. Four P-47's armed reconn. to Pagan Island. Check-out new pilots.  
1st Lt. Melvin F. Petty to Gunnery School U.S.A.  
Cpl. Paul R. Fackler to 176th Station Hospital
8. Squadron on CAP all day.
9. Early morning Alert, trainin scheduled for rest of day.  
Alfredo M. Garza to 176th Station Hospital. 2d Lts. George H. Byram and Paul L.  
Dechary assigned to the United States.
10. Four P-47's armed reconn. to Pagan Island. Training.  
Pfc. Gerald L. Walker evacuated to Oahu for treatment.
11. Squadron on the Alert and CAP.
12. No flying bad weather. 1st Lt. Melvin F. Petty Class Fester Fld. Texas, gunnery.  
1st Lt. Edward J. Liebgett, Bryan Fld Texas, instrument school, 1st Lt. John F.  
Dunn, 2d Lt. Philip LaRechelle to Oahu for rest.

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

## Chronological History, 1 March - 31 March 1945 (CONT'D)

13. Strong wind no flying.  
1st Lt. William A. Leflin, S/Sgt. Sam Mallaze, S/Sgt. Eldon C. Spreut, S/Sgt. George M. Smith, above men assigned to H.A.D. Hickam Fld. Oahu.
14. Squadron on CAP and Alert all day.  
Cpl. Robert D. Quimby emergency furlough of 30 days. 1st. Lt. Alferde M. Garza to 176th Station Hospital.
15. Training and Tracking Missions performed. Four P-47's armed reconn. Pagan. S/Sgt. Edward T. Retus assigned to Squadron. 2d Lt. John R. Denehue to Tripler hospital, Oahu.
16. Training Mission only.  
1st. Lt. Henry M. Stampe, 2d Lt. Howard H. Barrett, 2d Lt. Richard B Rhedy, 2d Lt. Michael Danyle, 2d Lt. Jesse F. Gibson to Oahu for rest and recreation.
17. Squadron on CAP and Alert.  
2d Lt. Milton B. Tayler, 30 day furlough to United States. 2d Lt. Walter E. Wilde, Sgt. Max Engler, Pfc. Robert J. Waldren all to 176th Station Hospital.
18. Squadron on CAP.
19. Gunnery and bombing missions training.
20. Squadron on CAP.
21. Tracking missions, Pagan mission called off.  
1st Lt. Virgil V. Sabourin to Oahu, Administration.
22. No flying schedule.  
1st Lt. Glenn A. Carlson, S/Sgt. Elde L. Lau, S/Sgt. Leroy J. Smith, S/Sgt. Christian Fosback to Air Depot Guam.  
S/Sgt. Ralph E. McBurnette, S/Sgt. Albert B. Larsen, Sgt. Milton L. Dunn, Cpl. Louis Goldberg, Cpl. William E. Knish 30 day furlough to United States.
23. Squadron on CAP.
24. Training Missions
25. Twenty-four P-47D's flown to Guam Air Depot.  
Captain Michael Slepecky Jr., S/Sgt. Milferd A. Soderberg, S/Sgt. Charles H. Walker, S/Sgt. Gunnard Walstrom, Sgt. Thomas A. Steckley Air Depot Guam.
26. Captain Arthur D. McKinley Jr, Flight Surgeon, to Tripler Hospital Oahu.  
1st Lt. Edwin A. Zimmerli to Oahu. Administration. Squadron flew CAP
27. Escort Mission to Iwo Jima.  
Sgt. Max Engler, PFC Robert J. Waldren evacuated to Oahu, hospital.
28. No flying. 1st Lt. Alferde M. Garza Jr. assigned to engineering office.  
1st Lt. Edward E. Gray, 2d Lt. Richard H Andersen, 2d Lt. Gerald R. Kearney, 2d Lt. William H. Mathis, 2d Lt. Vernon A. Wischer, to Oahu.

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

Chronological History, 1 March - 31 March 1945 (CONT'D)

29. Squadron on the Alert, training missions.

30. 2d Lt. Ernest L. Carden, 1st Lt. Kenneth S. Sitten, 1st Lt. Anthony J. Stelz, 2d Lt. John R. Denshus, 2d Lt. James P. Merris, 2d Lt/ Robert E. Rickard, 2d Lt. Jesse F. Bibsen, 2d Lt. James E. Spaulding, Captain Lee G. Lefferge, all the above MOS changed to 1Q55. S/Sgt. Fileman R. Geringer to 176th Station Hospital.

31. No flying scheduled. No change.

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10TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF  
A.P.O. #244

16 MARCH 1945

10TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT #3-6  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT #3-14

1. A. 4 P-47D'S  
B. NONE
2. A. NONE  
B. NONE
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN ISLAND
4. CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. JACKSON, \*MARCINKO, MORRIS, R.A. (VIOLET 4)  
\* "JOSEPHINE" LIFERAFT PLANE

TAKEOFF: 1307 - LAND: 1553

FOUR PLANES INCLUDING "JOSEPHINE" APPROACHED PAGAN FROM THE SOUTHEAST AT 5,000 FT. THE FLIGHT ARRIVED OVER THE TARGET AT 1415.

FIVE RECONNAISSANCE RUNS WERE MADE OVER THE RUNWAY AND TAXISTRIPS, WHICH WERE OBSERVED TO BE NON-OPERATIONAL, WITH NO INDICATIONS OF RECENT REPAIR WORK.

CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. JACKSON AND MORRIS, STRAFED LOOSE STORES AND A SMALL SHACK LOCATED ON THE CLIFFS SOUTH OF THE HANGAR AREA. THE BOXES OF STORES AND THE SHACK WERE SET AFIRE, AND CONTINUED TO BURN INTENSELY AS THE FLIGHT WITHDREW.

"JOSEPHINE" ORBITED AT 2,500 FT. OFF THE WEST END OF THE RUNWAY.

UPON RETURN TO BASE, THE FLIGHT SEARCHED THE ISLANDS BETWEEN PAGAN AND BASE FOR ENEMY AND FRIENDLY ACTIVITY. WRECKAGE OF ONE B-29 WAS OBSERVED 100 YDS. OFF THE WEST SHORE OF ALAMAGAN ISLAND, AND ANOTHER ON THE INSIDE SLOPE OF A CRATER ON ANATAHAN ISLAND. BOTH OF THESE ARE BELIEVED TO BE OLD WRECKS.

5. A. .2 CUMULUS, BASES AT 3,000 FT., TOPS AT 3,500 FT.  
WIND FROM THE NE AT 15K.  
B. GOOD
6. FIRES STARTED IN LOOSE STORES AND SHACK, IN THE CLIFF AREA SOUTH OF THE AIRFIELD.
7. 1120 GALS. GAS - 1990 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G.
8. NONE

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

4 MARCH 1945

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT # 3-2  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION # 3-41. A. 4 P-47'S  
B. NONE2. A. NONE  
B. NONE

3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN ISLAND.

4. LTS. GRAY, WILDE, BARRETT, WISCHER (VIOLET 80 )  
(GREYHOUND JOSEPHINE -LIFE RAFT PLANE)

TAKEOFF: 0949 - LAND: 1159

FLIGHT APPROACHED PAGAN FROM THE EAST AT 500 FEET, ARRIVING  
OVER THE TARGET AT 1040K.FOUR RECONNAISSANCE RUNS WERE MADE OVER THE RUNWAY AREA. THE  
RUNWAY AND TAXISTRIPS REMAIN NON-OPERATIONAL WITH NO EVIDENCE  
OF RECENT REPAIR WORK. NO A/A OR OTHER ENEMY ACTIVITY OBSERVED.RECONNAISSANCE OF ALL OTHER ISLANDS BETWEEN BASE AND TARGET  
NEGATIVE.5. A. ,1-2 STRATOCUMULUS BASES AT 3000 FEET, TOPS AT 7000 FEET.  
RAIN SQUALLS ENCOUNTERED AT ANATAHAN.  
B. GOOD

6. NONE

7. 980 GALLONS OF GAS

B. NONE

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

16 MARCH 1945

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #3-5  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #3-11

1. A. FOUR P-47D'S  
B. NONE
2. A. NONE  
B. NONE
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPTAINS VOGT, TODD, LTS. THOMAS, WEBER (JOSEPHINE) (VIOLET 3)

TAKEOFF: 1456

LAND: 1722

FOUR P-47'S INCLUDING 'JOSEPHINE' APPROACHED PAGAN FROM THE EAST AT AN ALTITUDE OF 400 FEET, ARRIVING OVER THE ISLAND AT 1550. 'JOSEPHINE' ELEMENT ORBITED OFF THE WEST COAST OF THE ISLAND AT 2,000 FEET.

THREE RECONNAISSANCE RUNS WERE MADE OVER THE AIRFIELD AREA. THE RUNWAY AND TAXI STRIPS REMAIN NON-OPERATIONAL WITH NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT REPAIR WORK. FLIGHT ENCOUNTERED NO A/A NOR DID THEY OBSERVE ANY MOVEMENT ON THE ISLAND.

CAPTAINS VOGT AND TODD STRAFED AND SET FIRE A SMALL BUILDING IN THE CINDER CONE NORTHEAST OF THE RUNWAY. A BUILDING ON THE EAST END OF THE CLIFFS SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY WAS ALSO STRAFED AND SET AFIRE.

RECONNAISSANCE OF ALL ISLANDS BETWEEN BASE AND PAGAN NEGATIVE.

5. A. .4 CUMULUS, BASES AT 2,500 FEET, TOPS 7,000 FEET.  
WIND FROM NORTHEAST AT 15-18 KNOTS.  
B. GOOD
6. FIRES STARTED IN BUILDINGS STRAFED.
7. 930 GALLONS GASOLINE, 1,325 ROUNDS .50 CAL.
8. NONE.

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

10 MARCH 1945

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION #3-4  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION #3-7

1. A. FOUR (4) P-47D'S  
B. NONE
2. A. NONE  
B. NONE
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN ISLAND.
4. LTS. COX, KENNEDY, SHAFFER, KEARNEY (JOSEPHINE) (VIOLET 6)

TAKEOFF: 0840                      LAND: 1050                      OVER TARGET: 0950

FOUR P-47'S INCLUDING "JOSEPHINE" APPROACHED THE TARGET FROM THE EAST ON THE DECK, ARRIVING OVER THE ISLAND AT 0950. LTS. SHAFFER AND KEARNEY THE "JOSEPHINE" ELEMENT PROCEEDED TO A POINT TWO MILES WEST OF THE ISLAND WHERE THEY ORBITED AT 1500-2000 FEET.

LTS. COX AND KENNEDY MADE SEVEN OR EIGHT RECONN RUNS OVER THE AIRFIELD AREA. THE RUNWAY AND TAXI STRIPS REMAIN NON-OPERATIONAL, WITH NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT REPAIR WORK. SIX OR EIGHT LARGE SHEETS OF SHEET METAL WERE OBSERVED AT THE BASE OF THE CLIFFS SOUTH OF THE RUNWAY. THESE SHEETS OF METAL WERE PARTLY CONCEALED BY THE TREES IN THAT AREA AND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHETHER THEY WERE THE TOPS OF SMALL SHEDS OR LAYING ON THE GROUND. THEY WERE LINED UP IN A ROW PARALLEL WITH THE BASE OF THE CLIFFS. NUMEROUS PIECES OF BROKEN GLASS OR METAL WERE SCATTERED NORTH OF THE RUNWAY GIVING THE EFFECT OF SMALL ARMS FIRE WHEN PILOTS WERE IN THE POSITION TO RECEIVE THE REFLECTED RAYS OF THE SUN.

NO A/A FIRE OR OTHER ENEMY RESISTENCE ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. .5 CUMULUS, BASE AT 1800 FEET TOPS AT 5,000 FEET.  
B. LOUD AND CLEAR
6. NONE
7. 1150 GALLONS GASOLINE.
8. NONE

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

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

7 MARCH 1945

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT #3-3  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT #3-7

1. A. 4 P-47D'S  
B. NONE
2. A. NONE  
B. NONE
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN ISLAND
4. CAPT. LEFFORGE, LTS. SPAULDING, \*RHODY, WEIR (VIOLET 2)  
\*(GREYHOUND "JOSEPHINE" - LIFERAFT PLANE)

TAKEOFF: 1010 - LAND: 1216

FOUR P-47'S, INCLUDING "JOSEPHINE" APPROACHED PAGAN FROM THE EAST AT AN ALTITUDE OF 7,000 FT., ARRIVING OVER THE TARGET AT 1106. WHILE CAPT. LEFFORGE AND LT. SPAULDING MADE THREE RECONNAISSANCE RUNS OVER THE AIRFIELD AREA, LTS. RHODY AND WEIR (JOSEPHINE ELEMENT) ORBITED OVER THE SOUTH TIP OF THE ISLAND AT 2,000 FT.

THE RUNWAY AND TAXI-STRIPS REMAIN NON-OPERATIONAL WITH NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT REPAIR WORK.  
NO A/A OR OTHER ENEMY RESISTANCE WAS ENCOUNTERED, NOR MOVEMENT OBSERVED.

CAPT. LEFFORGE AND LT. SPAULDING STRAFED HANGAR AREA, AND BLOCK HOUSE ON THE COAST NW OF AIRFIELD.

RECONNAISSANCE OF ISLANDS BETWEEN BASE AND PAGAN ISLAND NEGATIVE.

5. A. .7 CUMULUS - BASES 1,000 FT., TOPS 6,500 FT.  
INTERMITTENT SHOWERS ENROUTE AND IN TARGET AREA.  
B. LOUD AND CLEAR
6. NONE
7. 535 RDS. .50 CAL. M.G. - 1,000 GALS. GAS.
8. NONE

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

1 MARCH 1945

19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON MISSION REPORT #3-1  
318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT #3-1

1. A. 4 P-47D'S  
B. NONE
2. A. NONE  
B. NONE
3. ARMED RECONNAISSANCE OF PAGAN ISLAND.
4. CAPT. SLEPECKY, LTS. RUST, \*THOMAS, WEIR (VIOLET 4)  
(\*GREYHOUND JOSEPHINE - LIFE RAFT PLANE)

TAKEOFF: 0842 - LAND: 1145

FLIGHT APPROACHED PAGAN ISLAND FROM THE SOUTHEAST AT 1000 FEET, ARRIVING OVER THE TARGET AT 0940K.

FIVE RECONNAISSANCE RUNS WERE MADE AT VARYING ALTITUDES OVER THE AIRFIELD AND BEACH AREAS.

THE RUNWAY AND TAXI-STRIPS REMAIN NON-OPERATIONAL, WITH NO EVIDENCE OF RECENT REPAIR WORK. TRACK ACTIVITY WAS OBSERVED ON THE BEACHES NORTHWEST OF THE AIRFIELD.

RECONNAISSANCE OF ALL ISLANDS BETWEEN BASE AND PAGAN NEGATIVE. NO A/A FIRE ENCOUNTERED.

5. A. .90CUMULUS, BASES AT 2,000 FT., TOPS AT 5000 FT. WIND FROM THE WEST AT 15 MILES PER HOUR. WEAK FRONTS AND RAIN ENCOUNTERED AT ANATAHAN, GURGUAN, AND ALAMAGAN.  
B. LOUD AND CLEAR
6. NONE
7. 960 GALS. GAS.
8. NONE

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