

18 NOVEMBER 1944

GROUP MISSION #11-31 (CONSOLIDATED)

1. A. FOURTEEN P-38L'S (TWO DID NOT TAKE OFF AND ONE RETURNED SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF.
B. FOUR SINGLE ENGINE FIGHTERS.
2. A. NONE
B. NONE
3. ESCORT TWO F-5'S ON PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE TO IWO JIMA.
4. MAJOR WILLIAMS, LTS. SITTON, MCCAUL, STOLZ (VIOLET 1)
CAPT. TENNANT, LTS. REDFIELD, AMON, SULLIVAN (VIOLET 2)
CAPT. OTTENSTEIN, LTS. ERBELE, UESTANCE, RIVAS (VIOLET 3)
LT. KANE, GARDEN (VIOLET 4)

TAKEOFF: 0602. LAND: 1357. OVER TARGET: 1010.

LTS. REDFIELD (VIOLET 2-2) AND AMON (VIOLET 2-3) DID NOT TAKE DUE TO MECHANICAL TROUBLE. LT. KANE (VIOLET 4-1) RETURNED TO BASE SHORTLY AFTER TAKEOFF DUE TO HIS TRIM TAB HANDLE BREAKING OFF. LT. GARDEN (VIOLET 4) JOINED VIOLET 3 FLIGHT FOR THE MISSION.

THE THREE FLIGHT RENDEZVOUSED WITH THE TWO F-5'S AND FOUR B- OVER MARPI POINT AT 0610. THEY CLIMBED TO 11,000 FEET, AND PROCEEDED TO PAJAROS ISLAND, ARRIVING THERE AT 0800. THE FLIGHTS GRADUALLY LE DOWN TO 200 FEET AND ARRIVED AT THE IP (23 55'N 140 40' E) AT 0945. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE TARGET ON A VECTOR OF 35 TC, ARRIVING OVI TARGET AT 1005.

VIOLET 1 COVERED THE PHOTO RUN OF THE F-5 FLYING ALONG THE W SHORE OF IWO JIMA. FLYING AT 200 FEET, ECHELONED AWAY FROM THE ISLA VIOLET 1 ENCOUNTERED MEAGRE, INACCURATE AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE EMAN- ATING FROM COAST POSITIONS. WHEN THE FLIGHT WAS APPROXIMATELY ONE M NORTHWEST OF THE VOLCANIC CRATER, THE LEADER OBSERVED TWO SINGLE- ENGINE ENEMY AIRCRAFT DUE EAST OF AIRFIELD NO. 2, ALTITUDE 2,000 FI HEADING IN A SHALLOW DIVE TOWARD THE ISLAND. VIOLET 1 LEADER CALLED THE BOGIES TO THE OTHER FLIGHTS, AFTER COMPLETION OF THE PHOTO RUN, VIOLET 1 MADE A 180 DEGREE TURN AROUND THE NORTH END OF IWO JIMA AND HEADED FOR THE RENDEZVOUS POINT - MINAMI ROCK.

VIOLET 3 COVERED THE PHOTO RUN OF THE F-5 FLYING ALONG THE E SHORE OF IWO JIMA. THE FLIGHT CAME IN AT 50 FEET ALTITUDE IN A LINE ABREAST FORMATION. HALF WAY UP THE ISLAND, THEY TURNED OFF TO THE AND HEADED FOR MINAMI ROCK. AS THEY COMPLETED THEIR TURN, FOUR SI ENGINE ENEMY FIGHTERS WERE OBSERVED HEADING FOR THE FLIGHT AT 2,0 FEET TO 3,000 FEET. ONE OF THE BOGIES DROPPED A PHOSPHOROUS BOMB WHICH EXPLODED WELL AHEAD AND ABOVE THE FORMATION. A SECOND ENEM FIGHTER DIVED AND OPENED FIRE ON VIOLET 3-1 BROKE AWAY AND HEAD IWO JIMA. A THIRD ENEMY FIGHTER EXCHANGED PASSES WITH VIOLET 3- DIVED FOR THE DECK AND HEADED FOR IWO JIMA, VIOLET 2-2 OBSERVE FOURTH ENEMY FIGHTER AT 2,000 FEET, AND IN A CLIMBING TURN, OF FIRE AT MAXIMUM RANGE. THE ENEMY IMMEDIATELY BROKE AWAY TO TH AND RETIRED TO THE NORTH.

ALL THE ATTACKS BY THE ENEMY WERE UNAGGRESSIVE. NO A/A WAS OBSERVED BY VIOLET 3. ONE 2-ENGINE AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED ON NO. 2 AIRFIELD AT IWO JIMA. THE FLIGHT PROCEEDED TO MINAMI ROCK AFTER THE ENEMY INTERCEPTION AND ORBITED THE RENDEZVOUS POINT WHILE THE OTHER FLIGHTS REFORMED.

VIOLET 2 TURNED OFF 3 MILLS SOUTH OF IWO JIMA AND, AS THE BALANCE OF THE FORMATION REACHED THE TARGET, STARTED TO CLIMB TO 5,000 FEET WHERE THEY ORBITED UNTIL VIOLET 3 LEFT THE ISLAND. VIOLET 2'S MISSION WAS TO PROVIDE HIGH COVER FOR THE F-5'S. VIOLET 2 AFTER COVERING THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIOLET 3, PROCEEDED TO THE SOUTH TIP OF IWO JIMA TO COVER THE WITHDRAWAL OF VIOLET 1. THEY THEN PROCEEDED TO THE RENDEZVOUS POINT MINAMI ROCK.

ALL THREE FLIGHTS LEFT MINAMI ROCK AT 1020 AND HEADED FOR BASE. THEY ARRIVED AT EAST FIELD, SAIPAN, AFTER FLYING A TOTAL OF 1,518 STATUTE MILES.

5. A. .3 CUMULOUS AT 3,000 FEET OVER TARGET. RETURN TO BASE, THE FLIGHTS RAN INTO A FRONT, BASE 600 FEET, TOPS 18,000 FEET, APPROXIMATELY 300 MILES NORTH OF SAIPAN.

B. LOUD AND CLEAR.

6. NONE

7. 420 ROUNDS CAL. .50. 63 ROUNDS 20MM. 7,315 GALLONS GASOLINE.

8. NO RADIO CONTACT MADE WITH DUMBOS. NO SHIPPING OBSERVED.

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