

13 December 1944

P-38 PROVISIONAL SQUADRON MISSION REPORT # 12-2
 318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT # 12-15

1. A. Eight (8) P-38L's.
 B. None
2. A. None
 B. None
3. Escort of One (1) F-5 on photographic mission to Iwo Jima.
4. Lts. LOFLIN, DONOHUE, SITTON, MORRIS (JP). (Violet 5) - (19th Ftr.)
 Lts. WILSON, SHEPARD, AMON, STEVENS. (Violet 14) - (73rd Ftr.)

Takeoff: 0745 - Over Target: 1135 - Land: 1510

Lt. MORRIS, Violet 5-4, returned to base due to generator and hydraulic system out, pancaking at 0910. Lt. WILSON, Violet 14-1, failed to takeoff on account of right engine cutting out. (Airlock in gasline).

Flights rendezvoused at Marpi Point with 3 B-24 navigation planes and proceeded to 10,000 feet to a point 100 miles out from the target where they started letdown to the deck. Approach was made to the target from the east and approximately 15 miles out. The B-24's with one flight as escort proceeded to Minami Rock.

Violet 5-1 and 5-3 escorted photo ship over target. Run was made from SE to NW and turned south. Violet 5-2 accompanied planes in escort of B-24's. From the west beach dust observed indicating activity on the beach 4000 feet north of the volcanic cone. After planes reached south tip of the island, Airfield #1 appeared dusty. Strafing was not feasible because only two planes escorted photo ship over target. Other planes remained with B-24's at Minami Rock. One probable 40mm burst seen at north end of the island. Observed DD 350 miles south of Iwo Jima on return trip. No airborne planes at Iwo Jima.

Violet 14, plus Violet 5-2, escorted navigation planes to the rendezvous point, Minami Rock. On reaching the rendezvous they climbed to 3000 feet, and had completed only one large circle before being joined by the F-5 and its escort.

5. A. Weather very good enroute (.2-.3 cumulus). Over target, .3 cumulus from 1500 to 3000 feet.
 B. Loud and clear.
6. None
7. 80 rounds .50 cal. 5 rounds 20mm. 3975 gallons gas.
8. Observed B-24 strike headed north on return trip. Volcano on Farallon de Pajaros erupting.

SANDERS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

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