

19 December 1944.

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT

P-38 Provisional Squadron Mission # 12-3
318th Fighter Group Mission # 12-32

1. A. Eighteen P-38L's. (Two did not reach the target).
B. One ZEKE.
2. A. None.
B. One ZEKE shot down (Confirmed); one ZEKE damaged; one BETTY damaged.
3. Low level fighter sweep on Iwo Jima.
4. Major ROESER, Lts. J.P. MORRIS, EUSTIS, F/O JAMES. (Violet 33) - (333d Sq)
Captain TENNANT, Lts. STAMPE, KENDLE, DUNN. (Violet 34) - (19th Sq)
Captain MULLIGAN, Lts DE YONKER, FANCHER, MONYELLE. (Violet 35) - (333d Sq)
Captain MC COWN, Lts. HEAGNEY, KANE, REDFIELD (Violet 36) - (73rd Sq)
Lts SMITH, M. BENNETT. (Violet 37) - (73rd Sq)

Takeoff: 0715

Over Target: 1110

Land: 1430

All five flights rendezvoused with the three B-29's (navigating escort) over East Field and proceeded to Iwo Jima at 10,000 feet. Lt Dunn (Violet 34-4) developed an air lock which prevented gas from the external and wing tip tanks from flowing properly. He was 400 miles from base at the time and was ordered to return, accompanied by Lt. Kendle (Violet 34-3).

The flights let down when 60 miles from the target in order to approach Iwo Jima on the deck. The B-29's put them on course for Iwo, but the heading brought the flights to Minami Rock instead. As soon as Minami Rock was sighted, the flights changed course and approached Iwo Jima from the west. Violet 37 remained with the B-29's as fighter escort.

The other 14 planes approached the target line abreast, on the deck. Captain Tennant (Violet 34-1) and his wing man, Lt Stampe (Violet 34-2), spotted a ZEKE flying patrol at 1,500 feet directly over the island. Both pilots pulled up as the ZEKE turned to the left. The ZEKE apparently did not observe our attack because he took no evasive action until bullets from Violet 34-1 and 34-2 started to hit his plane. Captain Tennant observed 3 20MM shells hit the ZEKE directly behind the pilot, in the vicinity of the oxygen tank. Lt Stampe observed two of his bursts hit the ZEKE. One on the engine below the cowling and one on the wing root. As Captain Tennant broke away, the ZEKE was smoking. Lt. Stampe observed the ZEKE crash northwest of Airfield # 1.

Major Roeser observed two silver ZEKES taxiing and a BETTY with its engines running on the NE-SW runway of Airfield # 2. He turned into the three aircraft and opened fire. His wing man was concentrating on strafing gun positions and did not see him turn off. He scored hits on the BETTY and on one ZEKE. The latter spun around suddenly as if in a ground loop. Neither plane was observed to explode or burn, nor was it possible to determine whether the planes stopped afterwards.

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(Group Mission # 12-32, 19 December 1944) Continued.

All pilots strafed their respective areas but were unable to pick out specific targets. The only A/A observed was meagre, inaccurate fire from one Automatic Weapon between the west shore and the southern part of Airfield # 1. No planes were seen on runways or in revetments of Airfield # 1. Gun emplacements and buildings were strafed. F/O James strafed 2 Japs as they were running.

The five flights reformed and rendezvoused with the three B-29's over Minami Rock. They then returned to base, pancaking at 1430 K.

5. A. Good enroute and return. Clouds, .4 at 6,000 feet. Solid overcast over target at 2,000 feet, and raining.

B. Loud and clear.

6. One ZEKE destroyed (Confirmed); one ZEKE damaged and one BETTY damaged.

7. 469 rounds 20 MM. 3,861 rounds 50 caliber. 13,360 gallons gasoline.

8. The radar station just north-east of Airfield # 2 appeared to be intact. Two fuselages were observed side by side at the junction of the runways on Airfield # 2. One steel landing barge was observed three-quarters of a mile off the east shore of the island. It was very small, and was not moving. Two pilots saw it when they were on top of it. Did not strafe it.

SANDERS

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- 3 Copies - CTF 93
- 3 Copies - Director of Intelligence, AAFPOA
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- 7 Copies - Each Sqdn Concerned.

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INDIVIDUAL PILOT NARRATIVE REPORTS
 (Group Mission # 12-32, 19 Dec 1944)

CAPTAIN CHARLES W. TENNANT (Violet 34-1)

I was leading the second flight with Lt. Stampe on my wing. As we approached Iwo on the deck I observed a single ZEKE flying over the island at 1,500 feet. I immediately called him in and pulled up to his level. The ZEKE was taken by surprise. At the time I started to fire on him he was turning left and starting to go north.

My first burst was a little behind so I pulled it thru him until I could see my tracers going into his nose. The ZEKE tightened his turn to the left until I no longer could hold my lead. I observed three of my 20 MM hit him. One hit directly behind the pilot in the vicinity of his oxygen box, and two others directly behind that in line and about two feet apart. As I broke off I observed smoke trailing behind the Jap.

/s/ Charles W Tennant
 /t/ CHARLES W. TENNANT
 Captain, Air Corps.

LT. HENRY M. STAMPE (Violet 34-2)

I was flying Captain Tennant's wing and saw the Jap plane just as it was called in. When Captain Tennant started up after him I followed, opening my distance to make about 200 feet and in trail so as to be in better supporting position.

The Zeke was covered with brown and green camouflage and had a large roundel on the center of the fuselage and also on the top of the left wing.

I opened fire about two seconds after Captain Tennant and started by over-leading. As the Jap was in a violent left turn I held my lead there until he flew into my fire and then held on to him until I could not reef in any tighter. I saw a 20 MM hit him on the lower part of the engine cowl and another in the wing root.

The ZEKE never came out of the turn but dived right out of it into the ground. He crashed northwest of Field # 1.

/s/ Henry M. Stampe
 /t/ HENRY M. STAMPE
 2nd Lt., Air Corps.

A TRUE COPY:

H. A. Kampman
 A. A. KAMPMAN,
 2nd Lt., Air Corps.

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