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318TH FIGHTER GROUP, AAF
A.P.O. # 244

1 January 1945

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT # 1-1
P-38 PROVISIONAL SQUADRON MISSION REPORT # 1-1

1. A. Six (6) P-38's (All failed to reach the target - weather)
B. None
2. A. None
B. None
3. Photo Reconnaissance escort, Iwo Jima.
4. Capt. TENNANT, Lts. GIBSON, KENDLE, LIEBGOTT (Violet 1) - (19th Sqdn)
Lts. SHEPARD, BABCOCK. (Violet 2) - (73rd Sqdn)

Takeoff: 0759

Landed: 1400

The weather was good until flights reached Pajares Island. After passing this island they encountered a bad weather front. They entered this front and flew through it for more than sixty miles encountering three related bad weather layers which extended from the ocean up to 8,000 and 12,000 feet.

At 1050 the flights turned back due to their inability to locate the deck under these weather conditions.

Almost immediately after turning back, the left engine on Violet 2-1's plane started cutting out and he was obliged to feather the prop. He and his wing man with one of the escorting B-24's returned directly to base. Violet 2-1 pancaked at Isely Field in order to take advantage of the longer runway.

While returning to base, Violet 1-1 observed an aircraft in the water off shore of the west side of Alamagan. The flight orbited the area for twenty minutes but saw no sign of life in the vicinity. The aircraft in the water was lying on its back with the tail missing and the wings so distorted that definite identification could not be made. The pilots believe that the wing was Davis type. They state that the plane was definitely four engine monoplane, silver in color, and believe it to be a B-29. On shore near the wreck they saw a Yellow life raft and rations both strewn on the beach and piled up on a rock nearby. Following these observations they returned to base.

5. A. See narrative.
B. Loud and clear.
6. None
7. No ammo expended. 3,570 gallons gas.
8. None

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