

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

3 December 1945

318TH FIGHTER GROUP MISSION REPORT # 1-16
P-38 PROVISIONAL SQUADRON MISSION REPORT # 1-2

1. A. Six (6) P-38L's
B. None
2. A. None
B. None
3. Escort to Iwo Jima (Two F-5's).
4. Capt. TENNANT, Lts. RICKARD, KENDLE, GRAY. (Violet 1) (19th Sqdn)
Lts. HARBOUR, O'HARA (Violet 2) (73rd Sqdn)

Takeoff: 0759 - Over Target: 1230 - Land: 1556

Violet 1-1 and 1-2 together with Violet 2-1 and 2-2 left the bombers approximately 15 miles south of Iwo Jima at 1220 hours.

Approaching the target on the deck Violet 1-1 and 1-2 escorted Violet 41 in a photographic pass up the west coast of Iwo Island at 50 foot altitude, speed approximately 300 mph. The landing craft in the west boat basin were observed and appeared to be unchanged. The barrels on the beach seem to be set at twenty-foot intervals and appeared to be full of sand. A small mound approximately ten feet in diameter, circular in shape, with a short stubby projection out of the center and of an overall height of not more than five feet was observed on the point north of the west boat basin. The mound did not appear to have any openings toward the sea. The element escorted the F-5 in retirement northward, turning 180 degrees and ascending to 3,000 feet. A reconnaissance pass was then made southward along the west coast of the island within gun range. No aircraft were visible on either of the airfields and no activity was observed. No other shipping was seen.

Violet 1-3 and 1-4 remained with the bombers and orbited Minami until 1300 when the F-5's and escorting flight rejoined and started for base. One hour south of Minami Rock the strike force of B-24's was met and passed.

Violet 2-1 and 2-2 escorted the other F-5 up the east coast of Iwo on its photographic run. The run was made at approximately 50 feet altitude and completed just north of the east boat basin at which point they broke to the right and returned to Minami for the rendezvous. No unusual observations were made. No Anti-aircraft fire.

5. A. Enroute; .9 strato cumulus, tops 10,000 feet. Over target; .10 cumulus at 4,000 feet. Return; .9 strato cumulus broken in places. Tail wing 35 knots.
B. Loud and clear.
6. None
7. None. 4,020 gallons gas.
8. None

SANDERS