

CONFIDENTIAL

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

24 January 1945.

CONSOLIDATED MISSION REPORT

P-38 Provisional Squadron # 1-8
318th Group Mission # 1-59

1. A. 24 P-38L's (1 P-38 did not take off; 13 others did not reach the target).
B. None.
2. A. None.
B. None.
3. Escort B-29's and B-24's to Iwo Jima.
4. Maj. FOJTIK, Lts. BOWEN, DUPUY, RIVAS (Vampire 1) 333d Sqdn.
Capt. WOLFE, Lts. MONYELLE, DUERSCHMIDT, DUKET (Vampire 3) 333d Sqdn.
Lts. KENDLE, DECHARY, GRAY, F/O SPAULDING (Greyhound 8) 19th Sqdn.
Lt. STROUD, F/O JAMES, Lts. GARDEN, SULLIVAN (Greyhound 9) 19th & 333d Sqdns.
Capt. MULLIGAN, Lts. MATTISON, SHEPARD, HEAGNEY (Violet 11) 73rd Sqdn.
Lts. KANE, BABCOCK, REDFIELD, BARNHILL (Violet 12) 73rd Sqdn.

Takeoff: Vampire 1 & 3 - 0830
Greyhound 8 - 0920
Greyhound 9 - 0930
Violet 11 & 12 - 0915

Over Target: Vampire 1 & 3 - Did not reach target.
Greyhound 8 & 9 - 1340
Violet 11 & 12 - 1245

Land: Vampire 1 & 3 - 1145
Greyhound 8 & 9 - 1655
Violet 11 & 12 - 1545

Vampire 1 & 3 climbed to 9,000 ft. and then were ordered to pancake at Isley Field due to bad weather. They landed at Isley No. 1 at 0930. They took off again at 1120 and pancaked at East Field at 1145.

Violet 11 & 12 joined Dandy 5 (navigating plane) and two other B-29's at 10,000 ft. 5 miles off Marpi Point. They started on course for Iwo Jima, climbing the entire distance. Lt. BABCOCK developed a manifold pressure oscillation when 250 miles from Saipan and returned to base accompanied by Lt. REDFIELD. They pancaked at 1225. Lt. SHEPARD turned back from 450 miles out due to excessive fuel consumption. He was accompanied by Lt. HEAGNEY and they pancaked at 1345. Two other B-29's were picked up just prior to reaching Iwo Jima and the five B-29's made their bomb runs with the remaining four P-38's as escort at 25,000 feet. As the bomb run was completed, Lt. KANE spotted two (2) Bogies on the north-east end of the island at about 18,000 feet. He and Lt. BARNHILL went down, but the Bogies proved to be B-24's. Capt. MULLIGAN and his wingman returned directly to base with Dandy 5. Dandy 5 sent two other B-29's to Minami Rock and they acted as escort home for Lts. KANE and BARNHILL. A trail of smoke about 15 miles north-east of Iwo was observed, which could possibly have been a plane going down.

318TH GROUP MISSION # 1-59 - Continued.

Greyhound 8 took off at 0920 and rendezvoused with 4 B-24's over East Field. At 0930 Greyhound 9 took off in an attempt to rendezvous with the same B-24's, however, due to some confusion on takeoff was not able to effect rendezvous over the field. Lt. SULLIVAN (333rd Sqdn) did not take off due to radio failure. F/O JAMES after being on course for 100 miles also developed radio trouble and returned to base at 1045. Lt. KENDLE's flight after joining the B-24's climbed to 10,000 ft. and remained at that altitude until within 150 miles of the target where the flight climbed to 25,000 feet and the bombers climbed to 20,000 feet. Lt. STROUD's flight did not catch the bomber formations until they were 250 miles on course. This flight remained with the bombers at 20,000 feet over the target. After bomb run, flights returned to base with B-24 formation.

No enemy aircraft or shipping observed at target. Heavy inaccurate A/A fire from south tip of the island was meager to moderate, both predicted concentration and barrage type, from 17,000 to 25,000 feet. Bursts were black in color.

5. A. Average of .3 cumulus from 2,000 to 5,500 feet.
B. Loud and clear.
6. None.
7. No ammunition expended. 9,990 gallons of gasoline.
8. Flak terms as given in Flak Intelligence Memo # 1 (CINCPAC - CINCPAC Bulletin No. 13-45, 10 January 1945) will be used henceforth.

SANDERS