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HEADQUARTERS VII FIGHTER COMMAND AAF
Office of the Commanding General
APO 86

ACGBI/FHF/dmb

22 May 1945

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Pilots

The following extract from AAF POA letter, 11 May 1945, subject, Reports from Japanese Radios, is passed on to show you what they think of our P-51s in Japan.

"CAPABILITIES OF P-51 ("MUSTANG") AS REPORTED BY JAPAN (8 May 2200K)

"A brief explanation of P-fifty-ones will be given.

As for their speed, they can climb to an altitude of eight thousand meters (26,247 ft.) and have a speed of six hundred kilometers per hour (372.8 mi. per hr.). As for their armament, they carry four 12.7 or 29 millimeter machineguns.

The greatest problem for P-fifty-ones is raiding our homeland from Iwo Island is their range of flight. The range of flight is ordinarily one thousand eight hundred kilometers (1,118.5 statute miles), even with an auxiliary tank supply. Their maximum range of flight is reported to be three thousand five hundred kilometers (2175 statute miles).

Judging only from these capabilities, it makes you think what an excellent plane it is, but these figures are arrived at under (ideal) conditions. That is, speaking of the relation between speed and range of flight can be obtained only at a particular altitude where the least amount of fuel will be spent and also when a plane flies so as not to force the engine.

The distance between Iwo Island and our Homeland is about one thousand two hundred kilometers (745.7 statute miles) and a P-fifty-one can easily make a round trip. But as a fighter plane, it must fly in formation and, in the case of flying together with B-twenty-nines and in order to rally in the air, this will cause some unnecessary loss of time. Furthermore, when P-fifty-ones penetrate into our homeland and start to engage in aerial combat after encountering our attacks, the consumption of fuel increases unexpectedly. If the enemy worries about fuel consumption and takes an action which is not proper for aerial combat, he is threatened with being shot down by our attack. Also, even if the enemy does not worry about the consumption of fuel and fights bravely and narrowly escapes being shot down over our homeland, it is utterly impossible for him to return to far away Iwo Island over one thousand two hundred kilometers of water.

P-fifty-ones are equipped to carry two hundred fifty kilograms (550 lb.) of bombs. However, in order to make a round trip between Iwo Island and our homeland, they must carry an additional oil tank thereby reducing the number

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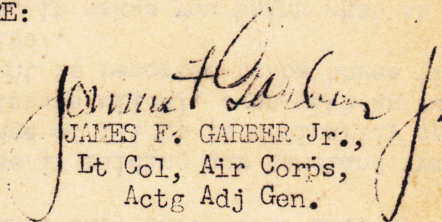
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of bombs. Therefore, they cannot carry exactly two hundred fifty kilograms of bombs.

The enemy, who is more cautious of his life than anything else, may be able to reach our homeland, but when it comes to attack, he cannot match in skill the sure-kill and sure-hit attack of our Wild Eagles. Therefore, even if the P-fifty-ones are loaded with bombs and come a long way, they can merely carry ten to fifteen kilogram (22 to 33 lb.) small-type bombs attached under both wings of the plane. Judging from the foregoing, even if the P-fifty-ones penetrate into our homeland, their maximum period of remaining in the air over our homeland is about twenty minutes. As far as the P-fifty-one raids are concerned, there is absolutely nothing to fear.

There are occasions when fire will be started by the attack of P-fifty-ones. This due to the use of incendiary bullets by P-fifty-ones. These so-called incendiary bullets are Pom-Pom bullets the body of which is stuffed with incendiary material and which emits flame while flying. When these incendiary bullets hit an inflammable object, fire starts occasionally at that spot. The enemy have used these incendiary bullets repeatedly in the past and they should no longer be feared."

BY COMMAND OF BRIGADIER GENERAL MOORE:


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