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February, accumulating aerological data and information which was quickly passed on to the Commander Fifth Fleet and which materially contributed to the successful invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. These flights proved so valuable that their continuation was urged by Navy Search and Reconnaissance Group and subsequently by Commander Fleet Air Wing Eighteen upon his arrival here.

Some enemy troops were on this island on 20 November 1944, holed up in caves on the southern, southeastern, and southwestern fringes of the island. Occasional ambushes were set for them by infantry units attached to Army and Marine commands on the island. Some fifty (50) were estimated to still be at large on 31 May 1945, including a Lieutenant Junior Grade.

Mine Assembly Depot No. 4, in the charge of Lieutenant W. S. GRIGSBY, USN, arrived on the island on 25 January 1945 with four (4) officers and seventy-five (75) enlisted personnel, and was placed under the administrative control of the NAVAL AIR BASE. This unit was primarily to engage in mining operations for the XXI's Bomber Command at Guam and was under the operational control of the Island Commander. A terrific explosion occurred in the mine stowage area of this unit on 7 March 1945, killing twelve (12) Army enlisted men and injuring five (5) Mine Assembly Depot enlisted men. An investigation of the Island Command failed to reveal the cause for the explosion.

On March 11, 1945 the NAVAL AIR BASE was honored by the visit of the Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Charles THOMAS, who inspected welfare and recreational