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NARRATIVE

The NAVAL AIR BASE, Navy Number 3247, was commissioned on 20 November 1944, taking over personnel, equipment and functions from ACORN THIRTY NINE which was simultaneously decommissioned. ACORN THIRTY FIVE, which was also decommissioned about this same time, was able to give to this base some personnel trained in Forward Area air base operations and some much needed equipment.

For purposes of this narrative a review of the pre-commissioning Naval aviation operational set-up on this island is advisable. ACORN THIRTY FIVE was engaged in the operations of the North Field (Ushi Point) Tinian, augmented by personnel from the ACORN THIRTY NINE who were gaining experience which later proved invaluable to the NAVAL AIR BASE. A portion of the remaining ACORN THIRTY NINE personnel assisted the Naval Construction Battalions, which had been assigned to the project by the Island Commander, in the construction of the NAVAL AIR BASE, while the balance of its personnel were busily engaged in unloading and sorting of supplies, and in activities preparatory to assuming operations and maintenance of the completed NAVAL AIR BASE. A few days prior to the commissioning of the Naval Air Base, the transition of operations from the North Field (Ushi Point) to the nearly-completed NAVAL AIR BASE began. Four (4) Patrol Bombing Squadrons transferred their activities to the new field, followed a few days later by Marine Torpedo Bombing Squadron 242. CASU FORTY FOUR, which had been in operation at the North Field under control of ACORN THIRTY FIVE, also transferred to the newly-