

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

and approximately seventy five (75) per cent of the buildings and taxiways were ready for use. On 1 December 1944 the taxiways, excepting for the completion of the shoulders, and the hardstands, were ready for use. Equipment and labor necessary to construct sufficient hardstands to properly disperse all aircraft (300 foot center to center) was not available due to the high priority assigned the VLR program on the island. Considering that construction of the NAVAL AIR BASE did not start until 14 September 1944 when the Naval Construction Battalions first started knocking down the sugar cane and brush in this area, it is considered a remarkable construction accomplishment that this base was ready for operations on 20 November 1944.

On 12 December 1944 the last Naval Construction Battalion Unit, the 110th, departed from the NAVAL AIR BASE, leaving the maintenance and further construction to Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit Five Nine Seven, which was neither manned nor equipped for the major construction work yet to be finished. Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit Five Nine Three, administratively attached to the NAVAL AIR BASE, was actually operating under the Island Command and employed entirely in the maintenance and operation of the island's tank farms and pipe line systems. On 1 January 1945, part of CBMU 593 was detached and sent to Guam, and detachment of the remainder was effected during the month.

The island was put in Condition RED at 2006 on the evening of 26 December 1944 due to the presence of enemy aircraft in the vicinity. At 2021 a single Japanese medium bomber dropped six (6) 63 Kg General Purpose bombs from an estimated altitude of twenty