

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

SECRET

UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AIR FORCE
COMBAT AIRCRAFT SERVICE UNIT (F) FORTY-FOUR
c/o Fleet Post Office
San Francisco, California

NARRATIVE

The first supplement to the history of CASU(F)-44 covers the period from 15 December 1944 to 28 February 1945. During this brief period there have been no major changes in function or organization; it has been a time rather of general development and growth, of refinement of technique and increased efficiency resulting from experience.

The first enemy air attack of any importance occurred on the night of 26 December 1944. A single Japanese bomber dropped a string of bombs in the CASU work area and on the work apron. From the resulting fires the Paint and Machine Shop building was destroyed, the Structures Shop was damaged by bomb fragments, and two PB4Y-1 and one PV-1 planes were destroyed. Prompt action by the Naval Air Base fire fighting personnel and CASU tow crews prevented the spread of fires, and no damage was suffered other than that resulting from direct or near-direct hits. Despite terrific heat of burning gasoline and the hazard of exploding ammunition, damaged planes were towed to safety and the fires got under control. For this heroism one officer and five men of CASU (1 A-F) were commended by Commander Forward Area Central Pacific. Flight schedules were uninterrupted and within three days the demolished shop was replaced.

1. See Appendix, Encl. (1 A-F) for copies of commendations. Photograph No. 19 shows presentation ceremonies. Officers around microphone area, l. to r., Brigadier General Frederick V. H. Kimble, Island Commander; Commander Clark Bucknam, Air Base Commander; Lieut. Comdr. James S. Purnell, C.O., CASU(F)-44.