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NARRATIVE

In the meantime the PV detachment remained at Kaneohe Bay gaining additional experience in the maintenance of PV aircraft. Most of the PV detachment departed from Pearl Harbor to Tinian on orders from the Commanding Officer of ACORN-39 on 24 July 1944 on the S.S. SANTA MONICA.<sup>1</sup>

The S.S. METEOR left Kwajalein on 22 July 1944 and arrived at Eniwetok on the following day. Immediately upon entering Eniwetok Lagoon, the METEOR joined with a convoy and proceeded to sail for Tinian without delay. However, a small detachment had already departed from Kwajalein for the Marianas Islands on 15 July 1944 when Lieutenant Robert L. Rhodes Jr., A-V(S), USNR, and ten (10) ~~men~~<sup>YULM</sup> were ordered to report by air to Isley Field, Saipan, in connection with servicing several PB4Y's of VPB-109 and VPB-116 which were operating from that field.<sup>2</sup> Tools were obtained by the group from the U.S.S. FORTUNE at Eniwetok. The detachment arrived at Saipan on 17 July 1944 and operated there six (6) weeks during which time they performed all repairs except major overhaul on PB4Y's. This detachment lived with an Army Service Squadron and used many of their repair facilities. Cooperation on the part of the Army was excellent and every effort was made by them to aid the CASU Group. While at Isley the detachment salvaged a considerable amount of Navy property from wrecked carrier type planes which had been forced to land on the field during the assault stage. Much more equipment could have been salvaged, however, if the group had arrived earlier. This detachment left Saipan and reported back to CASU-44 on Tinian on 27 August 1944.

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- 1 See appendix, Encl. 23 - Temporary additional duty orders from CO CASU-44 to Cinc CASU-44 Detachment of 7-3-44; End-1 of CO of Troops, S.S. SANTA MONICA, of 9-8-44.
- 2 See appendix, Encl. 34 - Temporary duty orders from ComMarSubArea to Lt. Rhodes and men in his charge of 7-15-44.