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

NARRATIVE

Recreation and entertainment facilities improved greatly throughout the period.

Whereas during the months prior to March of 1945 only two stage shows put in an appearance from the States, during the six months following 1 March 45, there was a stage show in the Naval Air Base open air theater approximately every two weeks. The performances by such stars as Gertrude Lawrence and Eddie Bracken, did much to keep morale at a high level.

Athletics, however, showed an even greater development. Most of the departments and divisions in the CASU organized softball and basketball teams which played regularly on make-shift, but adequate, diamonds. Merrill May, formerly third baseman with the Philadelphia Phillies, was transferred to CASU in April, and following his arrival much interest was shown in the organization of a hard-¹ball team. Also in April, eight (8) tennis courts were erected near the CASU camp, and men from the unit won both the singles and doubles championships of Tinian. In addition much interest was shown in ping pong, horseshoes, and swimming. On an island such as Tinian there are two major forms of recreation only; athletics, and movies or stage shows. Without question the emphasis put on both of these factors was responsible for the exceptionally high morale of this unit during a period when it would be normally expected that morale would become a major problem, due to the length of time which the majority of CASU personnel had spent overseas.

About the first of June, this unit was successful in receiving a revised personnel allowance from the Commander Service Force, Pacific Fleet. Previous to the time that this revision was received the unit had been operating with approximately twice as many men as authorized, and therefore the rating problem had been a serious one. With the receipt of the new allowance however, it was possible to

1. See Appendix, Encl. -- Picture No. 10