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UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET AIR FORCE
COMBAT AIRCRAFT REPAIR UNIT (43) FORTY-FOUR
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San Francisco, California

NARRATIVE

In August 1945, Naval Construction Battalions black-topped West Field Strip No. 3 and all taxiways with asphalt in a little less than a week's time. This development has improved both the field and taxiways considerably, due to the fact that maintenance work had been necessary following each and every rain storm, to fill in washed out coral throughout the area. However, hardstands were not black-topped, nor has the number of hardstands increased materially since last winter. Many times it has been necessary to park PB4Y's and PV's in taxiways in order to accommodate all of the planes on the field. This problem will be more clearly emphasized by mentioning that at present there are ninety-one (91) hardstands available for patrol planes as contrasted to one hundred fifty-five (155) patrol planes on the field.

During the past six months, a large number of commendations have been received both by the unit itself and by personnel attached to the unit. It is felt that these enclosures best describe the pride which this unit takes for its record in maintaining an unbroken schedule of patrol plane flights in this area, and the desire to perform all necessary work regardless of the obstacles which have been overcome.

15 August 1945 found the unit busier than usual. The squadrons stationed on the field had just taken over six search sectors from PBM squadrons on Saipan, and in addition to the regularly scheduled searches, there were frequent reconnaissance flights over Japanese held Islands in the area. Therefore, when news was received that morning that the Japanese had accepted surrender terms, there was little celebrating by CASU personnel. All hands kept on working on the checks, engine changes, gassing, and repairs of all kinds, and work did not cease. Since the cessation of

1. See Appendix, Encl. 23 - 45 inclusive - Commendations.