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NARRATIVE

dawn when fires were lighted to make coffee. All personnel was fired at occasionally, and it was perhaps lucky that no one was hit. Two (2) of the men, E. L. Howard, AMM3c, and G. A. Altenau, AMM3c, were engaged in local action at Tinian Town in which eight (8) Japanese soldiers and one woman were killed. The enemy group came out of a demolished house firing and throwing grenades (even the woman), and were subsequently killed by Naval personnel in the area. Fire from Howard and Altenau definitely accounted for one Japanese.

On 7 and 8 August 1944, the balance of the PB4Y detachment came ashore.

Living conditions were as bad as had been anticipated. A site had been picked for a temporary camp in a bull-dozed sweet potato patch. Small cloudbursts had turned this camp site into an actual sea of mud, and the newly arrived personnel pitched pup tents in this quagmire. Food consisted of K and C rations during the first three (3) weeks period that personnel were quartered in this spot.

Both drinking and washing water was extremely scarce. Heads consisted of slit trenches, and flies and mosquitoes existed everywhere. Personnel during this period had little to do except improve living conditions as best they could, for the ships carrying unit gear and plane parts could not be unloaded due to the extremely limited facilities at Tinian Harbor, and also due to high seas resulting from a typhoon passing through the area. However much emphasis was placed on sanitation. The mosquito problem was partly an individual one, and every effort was made to see that all hands used insect repellents and mosquito nets. Diarrhea and Dengue, two hazards of most units in this area, were never a problem. At no time were there more than three or four persons on the sick list

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1 See Appendix, Encl. 38 - Executive Order No. 7 (Typhoon Bill) of 9-16-44.