

DECLASSIFIED

Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

NARRATIVE

and to make ready for the critical situation which would exist on 1 Sept. 1944 when the PB4Y squadrons began operations, which situation would become even worse with the arrival of the PV squadrons.

No sooner had these steps been taken than VPB-150 arrived on 29 Aug. 1944¹ closely followed by VPB-151. It was learned that these two (2) PV squadrons had been ordered to commence their search and bombing missions within the next five (5) days.

Fifty (50) men from the PV detachment of CASU-44 landed on 29 August 1944, but the main body did not land on Tinian until 12 Sept. 1944 at which time they were detached from ACORN-39 and reassigned to ACORN-35 for duty at North Field with the original CASU group.²

It was obvious that for a period of about two (2) weeks, the personnel ashore at North Field which originally was scheduled to handle only two (2) PB4Y squadrons plus the fifty (50) PV specialists were forced to maintain two (2) ~~PB4Y~~ and two (2) PV squadrons. This task was not a small one.

The Engines Division of the unit was responsible for maintaining all engines and instruments. In this Division for the first thirty (30) days everything in the way of parts, tools, equipment, and personnel was inadequate.³ Nose hangars for PV's were available but could not be used for PB4Y's due to the fact that the chain fall in the nose hangars could handle only 40% of the weight of a PB4Y engine. Since there was continual rain throughout this period work on PB4Y engines was constantly delayed. In addition the damp weather brought about an

-
- 1 See Appendix, Encl. 6 - Squadron Statistics.
 - 2 See Appendix, Encl. 23 - Temporary additional duty orders from CO ACORN-39 to CinC CASU-44 detachment of 7-3-44; End-1 of CO of Troops, S.S. SANTA MONICA of 9-8-44.