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NARRATIVE

parties were returned personnel problems for this Division ceased.

Many of the aircraft arrived at this Field from Kaneohe Bay in need of structural repair immediately upon their arrival. It is believed that more effort should be devoted to sending planes into the forward area in better condition. It is felt that facilities at the air stations in the rear areas are such that necessary repairs can be made there more easily than at an air field in a forward area.

The Shops Division consisted at North Field of the following facilities:

- (1) Metal and Welding Shop.
- (2) Paint Shop.
- (3) Machine Shop.
- (4) Safety Shop, which included ~~inadequate facilities for maintaining~~ Parachutes, Oxygen and CO₂ Shop and flotation gear.

On 1 Sept. 1944 work had piled up in the Metal Shop to an alarming extent. There was a shortage of badly needed equipment due to the difficult unloading situation. The most serious shortage occurred in aluminum sheet, until a moderate supply of Japanese aluminum was found. Once again the cooperation of the Army on Saipan was of great help, and many accessories as well as sheet metal were obtained from them. A number of the planes returning from missions were shot up by anti-aircraft fire, and because of this fact the Metal Shop handled approximately 500 discrepancies in one (1) month's operation. An indication of the shortage of personnel in this Division during the first part of September may be determined by comparing the number of men available in the Metal Shop at that time and the number which are now assigned to the shop. On 1 Sept. 1944 there were only thirty (30) metalsmiths available to perform all work, whereas at present there are eighty (80).

The principal difficulty encountered by the Paint Shop was the inferiority