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NARRATIVE

two (2) years without working with any type of ordnance equipment will eventually return to ordnance work, but will be completely out of touch with developments in that field.

It is unfortunate that 90% of the men in CASU-44 cannot be advanced in rate. Many of the seamen who have been with the unit since February of this year would be, under war-time conditions, rated men by this date, and a few of them have the ability and knowledge of an average second class petty officer. However, it has been possible to advance only two (2) of them from seaman first class to third class petty officers. Furthermore, there are third class petty officers in the unit who are entirely deserving of being advanced to second class petty officers, and who have been thirty (30) months in rate. It is felt that the inability to advance men has resulted in a definite lowering of morale, and many of the men feel that a personal incentive to work is lacking.

With the arrival of the PV CASU Group at North Field in mid-September, and with the arrival of PV spares, working conditions were alleviated to a great extent. For the first time a work schedule could be maintained and followed with a reasonable degree of continuity. By 15 Oct. 1944, almost all of the problems which have been discussed had been solved, and it was possible to devote time to smoothing off the rough edges. Food had improved to a large extent, and occasionally fresh meat, vegetables and fruit were served. Water was plentiful, and men who by this time had become accustomed to infrequent showers were now able to wash at least every other day. A Barber Shop had been established and by this time a Ship's Service Store had been set up which carried cigarettes, soap, shaving cream and a few ^{other} ~~of the~~ similar items. Beer arrived in quantity, and a beer garden was established for all hands. The greatest enjoyment of the men was the excel-