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NARRATIVE

curred occasionally starting the last of October. While only one man was injured at North Field and only three (3) planes damaged by the attacks, they were of an exciting nature. On one occasion one (1) Betty and one (1) Nell came down the strip at an altitude of about 100 feet. This low level attack was sufficient to make all personnel aware of the potential danger from air raids.

Another exciting incident occurred when four (4) or five (5) Japanese on 13 Nov. 1944 forced their way into a PV parked on the edge of the strip. After exchanging gun fire with personnel in the vicinity, they evidently made an attempt to man the machine guns in the PV. Unsuccessful in this attempt, they set fire to the plane and destroyed it and themselves. It was especially fortunate that three (3) depth charges had been removed from the PV about ten (10) minutes before the incident occurred, for there were many other planes parked in the vicinity.

Around the first of November, it was learned that all operations would cease at North Field on or about 18 November, and that the squadrons and the CASU would move at that time to a new field under construction about seven (7) miles south on Tinian. It was necessary to put a great deal of thought into the details of this move, because no break in Squadron operations could be allowed. In other words, regular search missions would take off from North Field, let us say, on the morning of the 18th and would have to land that night on West Field. It was possible to move about 40% of the unit gear two or three days before the 18th, and when the actual date of moving arrived the balance was transferred to West Field without a hitch. All Maintenance Divisions had made special efforts to obtain 100% plane

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- 1 See Appendix, Encl. 50 - Commendation from CO CASU-44 to Lt.Cdr. Lachman.  
51 - Commendation from CO CASU-44 to 17 enlisted men.  
57 - Pictures No. 25, 26 and 27.
  - 2 See Appendix, Encl. 53 - Ltr. from CO CASU-44 to IsCom Chief of Staff of 10-21-44.