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NARRATIVE

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities in World War II, it was customary, when carrier aircraft were based ashore, for the non-flying personnel attached to the squadrons to accompany the planes ashore in order to provide service for the aircraft. After our entry into the war, it was found that non-flying personnel would have to remain on board carriers, even when planes from the carriers were temporarily based ashore, in order to maintain the carriers in full readiness for operations. It was with this thought in mind that the Navy Department decided to form and establish groups of non-flying personnel whose function it would be to service carrier aircraft based ashore. Thus Carrier Aircraft Service Units came into being.

The Navy Department delegated authority to ComAirPac to form these units in accordance with requirements based on the tactical situation in the Pacific.

*Foreign
Commander*
It was in accordance with this authority that ComAirPac, through its subordinate command (ComFair West Coast) ordered the formation of CASU-44. Lieutenant Commander James Stanley Purnell, (S), USNR, reported to ComFair West Coast on 9 February 1944, for assignment, and on that date was nominated by ComFair West Coast for duty as Commanding Officer of CASU-44. It was therefore on 9 Feb. 1944, that the history of CASU-44 as an effective organization began. The Bureau of Naval Personnel on 11 Feb. 1944, confirmed the nomination of Lieutenant Commander James Stanley Purnell, (S), USNR, as the Commanding Officer of CASU-44.

*Foreign
Commander*
Between 9 Feb. 1944 and 19 Feb. 1944, Lieutenant Commander James Stanley Purnell, (S), USNR, laid the ground work for the formation of the unit. Three (3) officers who were later to be assigned for duty in CASU-44 were stationed at CASU-5 at the Naval Air Station, San Diego. With these three (3) officers, Lieutenant Commander James Stanley Purnell, (S), USNR, ascertained the functions and the methods of operation of a CASU unit, studied all phases of the work per-