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NARRATIVE

formed by CASU-5, and conferences were held with various departments of ComFair West Coast relative to the assignment of personnel to the prospective unit, and to foresee problems before they arrived.

On 19 Feb. 1944, Lieutenant Commander James Stanley Purnell was detached from ComFair West Coast with orders to report to the Officer in Charge, CASU Commissioning Detachment, Port Hueneme, California, in connection with the commissioning of CASU-44. CASU Commissioning Detachment had been established by ComFair West Coast to facilitate the commissioning of CASU units at Port Hueneme, California. In addition, CASU Commissioning Detachment was responsible for the assembling and training of CASU units.

On 23 Feb. 1944, CASU-44 was commissioned, and on this date only five (5) officers and thirteen (13) men had reported for duty. The unit was stationed at Point Mugu, California, where only the roughest facilities existed. 16 x 16 tents had been erected previous to the arrival of the Commanding Officer, but the area in which these tents were located was in extremely bad condition. Heavy rain fall during the previous week had turned the location into a sea of mud, and no walks or paths had been built. However, all hands worked for several days to improve conditions, and in four weeks the area had been changed from a pig pen to a neat, orderly and well-equipped camp. Board walks were built, all rubbish and trash was burned, furniture constructed and an athletic and drill field was made out of a pasture. With these improvements living conditions were far from intolerable.

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- 1 See Appendix, Encl. 11 - Orders from ComFair West Coast to Lt.Cdr. Purnell of 2-19-44, with End-1 from CASU-5 of 2-19-44.
 - 2 See Appendix, Encl. 9 - Rest. Despatch 240545 from ACORN TRADET of 2-24-44.
See Appendix, Encl. 10 - Rest. Mailgram 171612 from CNO of 1-17-44.
See Appendix, Encl. 30 - Ltr. from CO CASU-44 to OpNav of 2-23-44.