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By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

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17 October 1944

From: Commanding Officer.  
To : Commander Marshalls-Gilberts Area.  
Via : (1) Commanding Officer, ACORN-35.  
(2) Commander Marshalls-Gilberts Area, Advon.

Subj: Engine Change Program in Patrol Bombing Squadrons 116 and 102.

Ref : (a) ComTaskUnit 30.5.3 ltr. of 11 Oct. 1944.

1. A copy of reference (a) has been received by this command, and it is felt that additional details can be furnished which will help clarify the situation.

(a) PB4Y Bureau No. 32316 was grounded on 22 Sept., for engine change. It tested its new engines in a hop on 13 Oct. It is not felt that the time consumed on this plane is a fair criterion of this unit's ability to handle engine changes in the program ahead. In order that a better understanding may be had of the problems involved on this plane which have been and are being overcome, the following reasons for the unusual delay are presented:

(1) The Engines Division was suffering an acute shortage of manpower. The daily operations schedule at times necessitated withdrawing men from the set-up crews to work on the line.

(2) Three emergency engine changes arose during the specified period and the men had to be withdrawn from 32316 to make these changes.

(3) There was <sup>an</sup> acute shortage of engine quick change stands and work platforms.

(4) Parts for the set-ups had to be manufactured.

(5) An excessive amount of trouble arose after the engines had been installed. This included (a) magneto and harness troubles on all four engines due to dampness; (b) generator troubles on all four engines necessitating a generator change and intensive trouble shooting and; (c) excessive difficulties in regulating fuel and oil pressures on all four engines.

(6) The Engines Division was moving at the time into a new Quonset-type hut, and the engine set-up area had to be established therein.

(b) PB4Y Bureau No. 32320, a subsequent complete engine change, was completed and ready for test hop in four days time.

(c) Four engine quick-change stands have been manufactured and four more are in the process of being made, a necessary step in view of information that eight previously ordered through normal channels would not arrive for one to two months. Additional engine work platforms are in the process of manufacture.

(d) The statement was made that no new engines were available for build-up.