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Aug 1944

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Organisational History, 6th Night Fighter Squadron,
15th Fighter Group, VII Fighter Command, Seventh Air Force.

Original Unit

1 August 1944 - 31 August 1944.

1. Organisation:

Negative.

2. Strength:

At John Rodgers Airport, NAS, Oahu, T. H.:

39 Officers
186 enlisted men.

With Squadron detachment at Saipan:

21 Officers
92 enlisted men.

3. Note of arrival and departure from each station occupied in this theatre:

On 5th August 2/Sgt. A. Bronson was transferred from duty with detachment to duty. Also on same date 3/Sgts. Kussalrode and Plummer were transferred from Sqdn. detachment to duty.

3/Sgt. Adams, of Ordnance section, from duty to discharge to accept appointment as Warrant Officer, J.G., as of 9th August, and assigned to VII Fighter Wing.

On 10th August 2/Sgt. Bivens of Communication section, from duty to discharge to accept appointment as Warrant Officer, J.G., and was assigned to VII Fighter Command, 15th Fighter Group.

M/Sgt. Brooks, our former line chief, one Tech Sgt., one Sgt. and four privates from duty to Detached Services to 71st Service Group.

18th August, Pvt. Standish from B.S. At detachment at Saipan to duty.

24th August, Cpl. Paudis and Pvt. Council transferred from duty to squadron detachment, Medie section.

30th August, Pfc Wm. H. Allinger transferred from sqdn. detachment to duty.

4. Losses.

Negative.

5. Awards and Decorations:

Negative.

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History of the 6th Night Fighter Sqdn. (cont'd)

On 19th August 2nd Lt. J.A. Thorsen and A.L. Trustley, Pilots, and 2nd Lt. N. Banks and J.L. Lister, Radar Observers, were assigned to the Squadron for flight training as I-61 replacement crew.

During the month of August our Squadron was fortunate in that three of our enlisted men were chosen for advancement. 2/Sgt. Bivens and Sgt. Adams were discharged to accept commission as warrant officers. J.C. 2/Sgt. Bivens, from communications, was transferred to VII Fighter Command, 15th Fighter Group and 3/Sgt. Adams, from Ordnance section, was assigned to VII Fighter Wing. Sgt. A. Koskowsky was transferred in grade to 13th Replacement Depot to await transportation to Signal Corps D.C.S., Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

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Engineering:

As every section, Engineering has been undergoing preparations for a long awaited overseas movement. All supplies, equipment etc., have been packed and are ready to be transported. This section is now operating with equipment drawn from 119th Sub Depot which will eventually be returned when the remainder of the squadron has completed work on the expected P-6s. Approximately 20 men and 1200 lbs. of equipment will be flown to our eventual destination, in 12 30s as soon as the P-6s are prepared for combat service to effect consolidation with the rest of the squadron which is leaving by boat.

T/Sgt. Bronson, recently returned from the 6th Night Fighter Sqdn. Det. on Saipan and U/Sgt. Brooks, former Line Chief, have been transferred to a Service Group now stationed on Saipan. A few new men have been transferred into the section, but there have been a few transfers out of those who could not meet the physical standards required by this forthcoming movement.

Under:

Squadron activity reached a new tempo during the month of August, greatly due to the "Down Under" movement, the entire section pitched in and completed the necessary packing in record time.

News that we were finally to leave this island was received in our section with no small degree of cheer, most of the men have had their "fill" of this Paradise (?) and long to continue their journey to a new locality. Naturally the prevailing subject of discussion is, "where will our new home be?" Gosses are numerous and rumors run rampant; to date we have failed to compromise.

Twelve of the thirteen men making up our section were placed on the shipping list, S/Sgt. S. Schneider, to his regret failed to make this list. Perturbed in no way, Barney has continued working with the section and has helped our splendidly, his influence at the supply depot is something we may all be thankful for at some later date.

Morale has reached a new peak, the men, while anticipating some hardships "Down Under", are happy to be going as an entire squadron. While we know we are not going to a picnic, to see some of the men pack away canned goods and other knick-knacks it sure does remind us of one. Suffice it to say that morale to date is excellent.

Communication Section:

Communication Officer-----1
Communication personnel-----25

Three men transferred during the month,
S/Sgt. Stuber,
P.F.C. Freyburger,
Cpl. Pulp.

Five new men assigned for one day and transferred out of the squadron the next day.

Eight days of the month was spent firing carbines along with regular duties of repairing radio sets; maintaining telephone lines; teletype and switchboard routine.

During most of the month all personnel were busy painting boxes for shipment; packing and banding boxes for shipment. The communication officer was busy getting equipment and supervised the packing of equipment.

A percentage of personnel were on detail as follows:

Making boxes, Kitchen Police, latrine orderly and helping the Chemical Warfare Service.

Morale is excellent.

Ordnance and Ammunition sections:

The Ammunition section has been twisting with activity during the month of August 1944. As much of the time has been spent planning and packing for a squadron shipping movement, every man has been quite occupied. The new men were assigned to this section during the month but one armorer is being assigned to another unit due to physical disability rendering him unfit to accompany us on our movement.

All enlisted men in this squadron fired their small arm weapon for a qualification course at Fort Lee, and nearly the entire squadron personnel surpassed the qualification requirements.

Our section installed the second fixed gun turret for Cal. 50's on P-61 number 601. As many of the pilots remarked of the blinding of the gun flash during firing. We experimented with various shields and eventually found success with a set of flash hiders that we modified. This proved a great help to the pilot. The 90 Ora rheostat installed in the L-3 Gun Sight in the P-61 was replaced with one of 200 Ohms as it proved more successful in reducing the intensity of the reticle image on the reflector glass. This section is also working on a plexid attachment for the gun sight to give the reticle image a dull red reflection.

Lt. Guild designed an auxiliary gun sight to be installed in the gunner's seat that is used by an experienced pilot in helping the pilot firing in gunnery to correct his lead and deflection passes while on the spot. A report of this installation with photographs has been forwarded to VII Fighter Command.

Two unsatisfactory reports were submitted this month by this section, the first on our replacement of the gunsight rheostat and its results and the second on the rear operating lever bracket of the 20 mm cannon.

The ordnance section is experimenting with a mechanical device to do away with side plate clearance on the Cal. 50 machine gun. More tests are being conducted and then a thorough report will be submitted to the proper authorities.

A section party was repeated this month at the squadron officer's Beach House on August 20th. It proved to be a great success and a "Brief" reporter was present to take pictures and news items to be published in "Brief" magazine. The pictures of the last party were included in one of August's issues of Brief as well as one taken some time ago of a night gunnery mission as carried out by this section. These section cuttings have proven to be a great morale builder and prior to our squadron movement orders it had been planned to carry them out at frequent intervals.

Since this squadron has been alerted for movement the mid-night oil has been burning brightly. All men in the section are to be commended for their fine work in assisting and working out a shipping plan. At the present the section is ready to move out completely within an hours notice.

Medical Section:

Medical Personnel:

a. Col. Harold L. Paudis and Pvt. B.R. Council transferred to 5th Night Fighter Detachment, APO #244, as of 24 August 1944.

b. Col. Robert D. Marquette and Pfc. Donald J. Foley transferred to 28th Photo Reconnaissance Squadron, APO #959, as of 26 August 1944.

Hospitalizations:

a. Pfc. J.J. Kolodziej admitted to Tripler General Hospital as of 7 August 1944. Cause of admission was a badly lacerated left hand. The injuries were sustained when Pfc. Kolodziej was attempting to dismantle a captured Japanese 20MM detonator which had been brought back from APO 244.

b. Pvt. B.R. Council discharged from Tripler General Hospital as of 11 August 1944.

c. Immunizations:

Immunizations as required for personnel alerted for movement to forward areas are being completed for all personnel of this squadron.

d. Treatments:

1. There were 158 patients treated at the Dispensary.

2. There were 243 treatments given.

e. Inspections:

1. Routine physical inspections of all enlisted men were held.

f. Supplies and Equipment:

1. All medical equipment authorized under the Squadron's T/S in addition to extra equipment procured in various ways has been packed and is ready for shipment.

Remarks:

1. The morale of the Medical Section is good.
2. There are no cases of venereal disease in the Squadron.
3. There are no cases of communicable disease in the Squadron.

Operations:

The month of August saw such bustling and activity on the part of all personnel of the 6th Sqdn. After 28 years of continuous service in their Paradise (?), the squadron is going down under as a unit to make history.

The contemplated move has brought much shifting of personnel in the various sections. The only personnel change in this section was the loss of Sgt. J.H. Spear, who was transferred to the 7th Fighter Wing. Sgt. Spear is 36 years old and has already seen action with the 45th Sqdn.—which in all probability accounts for his being left behind.

The squadron flew a total of 55:40 for the month and had only one accident. Of the total flying time, 4:05 was tactical and the rest was training. Our one accident occurred on the last day of the month, (31 Aug. 1944) at approximately 1505, 2nd Lt. J.A. Thorsen undershot runway #4 at John Rodgers while coming in for a landing. He was returning from a training mission and was number two to land. Upon making his approach, he undershot the runway by approximately 160 feet and upon impact with the ground the nose gear folded up. The plane came to a stop after skidding on its nose for 1700 feet. Considerable damage was done to the airplane. Lt. Thorsen received a two inch laceration on the forehead and was treated by the Naval Air Station Hospital. Lt. Hankins, his R.O., was uninjured. The accident was due to 100% Pilot error.

The morale of the section is hard to determine, as all of us are trying to picture just what lies ahead and how much longer it will be until we can once again see "God's Country".

Parachute:

This past month life Jones and myself have been busy, especially when the rumor about leaving Hawaii proved it's self true. Every person flying down in the P-51s has been fully equipped with a parachute, a one-man raft, a life preserver, and a complete jungle-kit. The nine persons flying down in the gunners seats will be fitted, as all the others, as soon as we find out who they are.

The remainder of the department is all mailed and wired away in boxes and all set for the honeymoon. Naturally every department has it's troubles at a time as this, but ours were so funny that we couldn't help but laugh. Seems Major Alford (Sqdn. C.O.) must have been pecking around the corner of our shack waiting till we were all packed away to tell us that he needed three more tenths and etc. for another P-51. Everything was running too smoothly before this that if something didn't happen to detour us we wouldn't feel just right. But now everything is just as I know the Army wants it, therefore Jones and myself are all set and happy about the whole thing.

Sgt. F.B. Talis.

Intelligence Section

Like the other Sections of the Squadron, S-2 has been very busy keeping abreast of developments.

When definite word came thru that our whole Squadron was definitely and finally scheduled for movement to a theatre of action, the whole Squadron buzzed with activity. But it was a harmonious melody, because most of the men have been together over 15 months and have gotten to know each other and their duties very well, which contributed to a smooth clicking efficient machine. Everyone is happy about the whole thing and morale is high.

The preparation for movement has imposed many additional duties to the section. Many personal items such as photo-albums, diaries, collections of letters, scrapbooks, lockers with surplus goods and stricter censorship of mail plus disposal of surplus Confidential literature and storage of Squadron pictures, cables and trophies have kept our section working at top speed. T/Sgt. Zankler is to be commended for the efficient manner in which this work has been disposed of. We were also fortunate in having Lt. Dale Lancy transferred to our section as Assistant S-2 Officer to Lt. Lightbown. He has proven to be of great assistance, particularly at this time. As of now, most of our arduous over-head packing and other details have been accomplished and we will be ready for shipping whenever the word is given.

JOHN H. HO,
Capt., A.C.,
S-2 Officer.