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MAY 1945
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P.R.C.

HISTORY
78th FIGHTER SQUADRON
MAY 1945

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78TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO 86

7 JUNE 1945

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INSTALLMENT OF UNIT HISTORY FOR MAY
TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, VII FIGHTER COMMAND, APO 86
THRU : COMMANDING OFFICER, 15TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 86

IN COMPLIANCE WITH AAFPOA MEMORANDUM NO. 20-3, DATED
18 SEPTEMBER 1944, THE UNIT HISTORY FOR THE MONTH OF MAY
IS HEREBY SUBMITTED.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

LEO P. MICHAELIDES
1ST LT, AIR CORPS
HISTORICAL OFFICER

75TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO 86

7 JUNE 1945

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 75TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 15TH
FIGHTER GROUP, VII FIGHTER COMMAND, ARMY AIR FORCES,
PACIFIC OCEAN AREAS.

MAY 1, 1945 - MAY 31, 1945

1. DATE OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE FROM EACH STATION
OCCUPIED IN THIS THEATER.

NEGATIVE.

2. LOSSES IN ACTION (KILLED, WOUNDED, MISSING OR
PRISONER) BY NAME, WITH IDENTIFICATION OF PLACE OF MISSION,
CIRCUMSTANCES AND DATE.

ON 25 MAY 1945, 2D LT ROBERT L. WILLIAMS WAS RE-
PORTED AS MISSING IN ACTION WHILE ON A MISSION TO EFFECT
A LOW LEVEL STRAFING OF MATSUO AIRFIELD. AFTER ENGAGING
A ZEKE WITH CAPTAIN VICTOR K. MOLLAN WHICH THEY JOINTLY
DESTROYED, HE DISAPPEARED AND WAS NOT THEREAFTER HEARD
FROM OR SEEN BY ANYONE. THIS OCCURRED MIDWAY BETWEEN EDO
RIVER AND TEGA LAKE AT 5,000 FEET.

3. AWARDS TO AND DECORATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE IM-
MEDIATE UNIT INVOLVED.

NEGATIVE.

4. ORGANIZATION (E.G., CHANGES EFFECTED BY THE
TRANSFER OF UNITS OR BY NEW T/O'S).

NEGATIVE.

5. STRENGTH, PERSONNEL (ON THE FIRST AND LAST DAY
OF THE MONTH BEING REPORTED).

MAY 1, 1945

69 OFFICERS
252 ENLISTED MEN

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MAY 31, 1945

65 OFFICERS
292 ENLISTED MEN

6. STRENGTH, AIRPLANES BY TYPES (ON HAND THE FIRST
AND LAST DAY OF THE MONTH BEING REPORTED).

MAY 1, 1945

AMOUNT	TYPE
27	P-51D-20NA
1	C-47A-90DL
28	TOTAL AIRPLANES

MAY 31, 1945

AMOUNT	TYPE
25	P-51D-20NA
5	P-51D-25NA
1	C-47A-90DL
29	TOTAL AIRPLANES

7. LOSSES, AIRPLANES BY TYPES (OPERATIONAL AND
COMBAT).

AMOUNT	TYPE	NOTES
3	P-51D-20NA	LOST IN COMBAT
1	P-51D-20NA	TRANSFERRED TO 386TH SERVICE GROUP, APO 86.

78TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO 86

7 JUNE 1945

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INSTALLMENT OF UNIT HISTORY FOR MAY
TO : COMMANDING GENERAL, VII FIGHTER COMMAND, APO 86
THRU : COMMANDING OFFICER, 15TH FIGHTER GROUP, APO 86

1. GENERAL:

OUR PILOTS' FINE PERFORMANCES DURING APRIL WERE CONTINUED IN MAY AS THEY COMPLETED NINETEEN MISSIONS DURING TWO JIMA'S MONTH OF GREATEST PRECIPITATION. DESPITE RAINSTORMS, HURRICANES, AND FORMIDABLE WEATHER FRONTS ENROUTE TO TARGET, THE SQUADRON TALLIED THREE VLR FIGHTER SWEEPS, TWO VLR B-29 ESCORT MISSIONS, NINE MISSIONS AGAINST CHICHI JIMA, TWO INTERCEPTION MISSIONS, TWO "JOSEPHINE" LIFE RAFT MISSIONS, AND A SEARCH MISSION. OUT OF THESE MISSIONS 12 ENEMY PLANES WERE DESTROYED IN THE AIR, AND A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER PROBABLY DESTROYED OR DAMAGED. MUCH DAMAGE WAS ALSO INFLICTED UPON ENEMY SHIPPING AND INSTALLATIONS. ANNEXED TO THIS REPORT AS EXHIBIT "A" IS A SUMMARY OF THE MONTH'S MISSIONS. ANNEXED AS EXHIBIT "B" IS A SUMMARY OF THE RESULTS OF THESE MISSIONS.

ONCE AGAIN THIS MONTH THE SQUADRON STRETCHED ITS STRING OF NOTABLE FIRSTS. ON MAY 25TH WE SUPPLIED THE FIRST FLIGHT OF ARMY PLANES EQUIPPED WITH ROCKETS FOR A MISSION OVER THE JAP MAINLAND. THEY BLASTED INSTALLATIONS

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AT MATSUDO AIRFIELD WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS. MAJOR TAPP
LED THIS FLIGHT OVER THE TARGET. ANNEXED TO THIS REPORT
AS EXHIBIT "C" ARE PHOTOGRAPHS AND DESCRIPTIONS OF THE
ROCKET INSTALLATIONS.

THE SECOND CENTRAL PACIFIC ARMY FIGHTER ACE WAS
CORRALLED BY THIS SQUADRON WHEN OUR CAPTAIN MOORE GATHERED
HIS FIFTH AND SIXTH ENEMY PLANES ON THE MISSION OF MAY
29TH OVER YOKOHAMA. HE AND MAJOR TAPP ARE THUS FAR THE
ONLY SUCH AGES IN THE FIGHTER COMMAND.

THE MAY 25TH ROCKET MISSION WAS OUTSTANDING IN MANY
OTHER RESPECTS. ALTHOUGH, DUE TO WEATHER AND MECHANICAL
DIFFICULTIES, ONLY TEN OF OUR PILOTS WENT OVER THE TARGET.
THIS TINY BAND ACCOUNTED FOR SEVEN PLANES DESTROYED IN THE
AIR, ONE PLANE DAMAGED IN THE AIR, ONE PLANE DESTROYED ON
THE GROUND AND FIVE PLANES DAMAGED ON THE GROUND. TWO
JAP HANGARS WERE SEVERELY DAMAGED AS WELL AS A POWER HOUSE.
IN TOKYO BAY A FOX TARE DOG WAS SUNK AND AN LST DAMAGED.

DURING MAY MORALE FLOCTUATED LIKE A PNEUMONIA
PATIENT'S TEMPERATURE CHART. THE BEGINNING OF THE MOTLEY
MONTH BROUGHT A SHIPMENT OF FRESH FOODS TO SPUR APPETITES
JADED BY THE INEVITABLE MEAT AND VEGETABLE STEW OR ROAST
BEEF HASH. THUS, ON MAY 20, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE
ARRIVAL AT IWO JIMA, ICE CREAM GRACED THE MENU. THEN

[REDACTED]

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FOLLOWED STEAK AND AN ASSORTMENT OF FRESH FRUITS, SALADS
AND FROZEN MEATS. THIS COINCIDED WITH THE PROBABILITY
OF GERMANY'S IMMINENT SURRENDER AND HOPES RAN HIGH. VE
DAY WITH ITS ATTENDANT DISCLOSURE THAT AIR FORCE MEN MUST
NOT BE TOO OPTIMISTIC ABOUT DEMOBILIZATION WAS SWIFTLY
FOLLOWED BY THE SUSPENSION OF THE ROTATION SYSTEM. MEN
WHO HAD BEEN OVERSEAS THREE YEARS AND MORE FOUND THEM-
SELVES IN THE UNFORTUNATE POSITION OF HAVING FEWER DE-
MOBILIZATION POINTS THAN MEN WHO HAD BEEN ROTATED FROM
THE ETO AND HAD BUT RECENTLY SEEN THEIR FAMILIES DURING
FURLOUGH. INDICATIONS WERE THAT THREE YEARS MIGHT
STRETCH TO FOUR BEFORE THESE MEN COULD GET A GLIMPSE OF
HOME. THE RESULTING BLOW TO MORALE WAS TO SOME EXTENT
COUNTERBALANCED BY THE FINE RESULTS OF THE SQUADRON
PILOTS ON THEIR MISSIONS AND BY ACCOUNTS OF THE HAVOC
B-29'S WERE WREAKING ON THE JAP MAINLAND.

A MIDMONTH SERIES OF RAINSTORMS CULMINATING
IN A BADY HURRICANE DIVERTED ATTENTION AND CAUSED MINOR
DAMAGE TO INSTALLATIONS WHICH HAD TO BE REPAIRED. HOW-
EVER THE LATTER PART OF THE MONTH BROUGHT GOOD WEATHER
AND WITH IT A FLOURISHING OF SPORTS SUCH AS HORSESHOE
PITCHING, VOLLEY BALL, TOUCH FOOTBALL AND PITCH AND
CATCH. OTHER LITTLE ITEMS CONTRIBUTED TO MORALE. A

[REDACTED]

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BARBER SHOP WAS SET UP IN THE SQUADRON AREA. CORPORAL
GALARZA FUNCTIONED AS SQUADRON BARBER. A WASH STAND WAS
CONSTRUCTED NEXT TO THE SHOWER ROOM TO FACILITATE ABLUTIONS.

MAIL CAME IN SLOWLY AND WITH DELAY. THE WEATHER
HAD A GREAT DEAL TO DO WITH THIS BUT THE MAIL ORDERLY,
CORPORAL ELLINGTON, WAS SUBJECTED TO A DAILY BOMBARDMENT
OF QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER ANY MAIL HAD ARRIVED. THESE HE
GENERALLY HAD TO ANSWER WITH A SAG NEGATIVE SHAKE OF HIS
HEAD.

ON MAY 24TH, WHITEY DIED. WHITEY WAS A HAWAIIAN
DOG BROUGHT TO IWO JIMA FROM BELLOWS FIELD BY SGT CHARLES
MONTANTI, AND HAD THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE FIRST AAF
DOG TO LAND ON IWO JIMA. HE WAS THE SQUADRON PET AND
ENLIVENED SEVERAL MOVIE SHOWS BY FURIOUSLY BARKING AT LEO
THE LION AND THE DOGS IN THE ANIMATED CARTOONS.

2. COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

MAJOR JAMES R. MCNEVINS, SQUADRON EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
LEFT THE ORGANIZATION ON 18 MAY 1945, VIA ROTATION. HIS
POSITION IS BEING CAPABLY FILLED BY CAPTAIN JOE DELAHUNTY
WHO HAS ASSUMED THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S DUTIES IN ADDITION
TO HIS ASSIGNED DUTIES AS ADJUTANT.

MESS SERGEANT GEORGE WILLIAMS TERMINATED HIS
BRIEF BUT HAPPY EXISTENCE WITH THE SQUADRON WHEN HE WAS

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TRANSFERRED TO GROUP HEADQUARTERS ON 15 MAY 1945. HIS
PLACE WAS TAKEN BY WESS SERGEANT WILLIAM E. MAUSLING.

OTHER NEW ADDITIONS TO THE SQUADRON WERE, NEW PILOTS
2D LT JOSEPH P. GUTIERREZ, 2D LT WILLIAM F. KILLION, 2D LT
DAVID T. WILSON, AND FLIGHT OFFICER THOMAS H. TEMPLE; AND
ENLISTED MEN, SGT JOE DONNELLY AND T.SGT WILLIAM L. ADAMS
FOR THE ORDNANCE SECTION, S.SGT ROBERT M. KRUER FOR THE
ARMAMENT SECTION, AND PFC RAYMOND D. COOKSEY FOR COMMUNI-
CATIONS.

BESIDES MAJOR MCNEVINS THE SQUADRON LOST CAPTAIN
CHAMBERS WHO LEFT ON ROTATION, AND CAPTAIN COLLINS, LT
PATTERSON, AND LT SHERREN WHO WERE TRANSFERRED TO THE 45TH
FIGHTER SQUADRON. CAPTAIN MOORE, PROMOTED TO MAJOR THE
END OF THE MONTH WAS THEN PLACED ON DS WITH THE 45TH.

ALSO PROMOTED WERE 1ST LT BEYL TO CAPTAIN, AND 2D
LTB EVANS, MCCULLOUGH AND SCOTT TO 1ST LT. CORPORAL
DROWN MADE SERGEANT, SERGEANT PERKINS MADE STAFF, AND
PRIVATES AUFDERHEIDE, CHATMAN, DEITER, MENTER, AND NEWMAN
WERE RAISED TO PFC.

FIVE ENLISTED MEN LEFT ON FURLOUGH DURING THE MONTH,
THEY WERE, STAFF SERGEANTS CRAIG, KIRN AND RUPPERT, AND
SERGEANTS CASE AND PEASE.

ON MAY 1ST THE PERSONNEL SECTION PAID OFF PERHAPS
THE LARGEST PAY ROLL IN THE HISTORY OF THE SQUADRON.

[REDACTED]

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THIS WAS DUE TO THE FACT THAT THE ORGANIZATION HAD NOT
BEEN PAID SINCE JANUARY 1ST. TOTAL CASH PAID OUT AMOUNT-
ED TO MORE THAN 46,000 DOLLARS, THE BALANCE OF THE MONIES
DUE BEING TAKEN UP IN VARIOUS ALLOTMENTS.

3. OPERATIONS:

THE MONTH OF MAY WAS CHARACTERIZED BY BAD WEATHER
WHICH NECESSITATED THE POSTPONEMENT OF SEVERAL MISSIONS
TO JAPAN. LOCAL FIELD CONDITIONS IN SOME CASES PREVENTED
THE PLANES FROM TAKING OFF WHILE IN OTHER CASES WEATHER
BETWEEN 120 AND THE TARGET EITHER FORCED THE PLANES TO
TURN BACK OR RESULTED IN THE MISSION BEING CANCELLED AL-
TOGETHER.

THE 8TH OF MAY SAW THE FIRST VLR OF THE MONTH
WHEN THE SQUADRON HAD 14 PLANES AIRBORNE OVER KIZARAZU
AIRFIELD, HONSHU, JAPAN. ALTHOUGH THE SQUADRON WAS ACTING
AS HIGH COVER FOR THE 21ST GROUP WHOSE JOB IT WAS TO WORK
OVER THE AIRFIELD, THEY WERE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A
STRIKE AT SEVERAL TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY WHILE LEAVING
KIZARAZU. ONE 1300 TON CARGO VESSEL AND ONE LOCOMOTIVE
WERE DESTROYED WHILE ANOTHER LOCOMOTIVE AND A TROOP TRAIN
WERE DAMAGED. LEAVING THE COAST THREE LANDING BARGES, A
PICKET BOAT AND A TUG WERE STRAFED. THE AA WAS EXTREMELY

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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HEAVY BUT ALL OF OUR PLANES RETURNED TO BASE.

ON THE 19TH OF MAY, 16 PLANES FROM THIS SQUADRON
GOT AS FAR AS THE COAST OF HONSHU BEFORE BEING TURNED BACK
BY BAD WEATHER. AGAIN ON THE 21TH PLANES TOOK OFF FOR A
VLR FIGHTER SWEEP ON MATSUDO AIRFIELD ONLY TO TURN BACK
BECAUSE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS BETWEEN TWO AND THE TARGET.

TWENTY FOUR PLANES TOOK OFF ON THE MORNING OF THE
25TH FOR ANOTHER CRACK AT MATSUDO. FOURTEEN OF THE ORIG-
INAL SQUADRON WERE FORCED TO TURN BACK BECAUSE OF ROUGH
ENGINES, ENGINES CUTTING OUT AND OTHER MECHANICAL DIFFI-
CULTIES, WHILE TEN CONTINUED ON TO THE AIRFIELD. IN AD-
DITION TO DESTROYING EIGHT JAP PLANES AND DAMAGING SEVEN,
A FOX TARE DOG WAS SET AFIRE, A JAP LST WAS DAMAGED, AND
FIRES AND EXPLOSIONS WERE STARTED IN HANGARS AND POWER
HOUSES AT MATSUDO BY THE FOUR SHIPS CARRYING HVAR ROCKETS
AND 165 GALLON WING TANKS. LT KREIMANN, FORCED TO BAIL
OUT WHEN HIS PLANE CAUGHT ON FIRE WHILE RETURNING FROM THE
TARGET, WAS LATER PICKED UP BY A SUBMARINE, AND HAS BEEN
RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON.

THE VLR MISSION OF THE 29TH PROVED TO BE A FIELD
DAY FOR US. FIVE PLANES WERE DESTROYED, TWO PROBABLY DE-
STROYED, AND FIVE DAMAGED. RETURNING FROM JAPAN, LT

[REDACTED]

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ROSEBERRY HAD ENGINE TROUBLE AND HAD TO BAIL OUT ABOUT
20 MILES NORTH OF KITA ROCK. HE WAS PICKED UP BY A
DESTROYER AFTER SPENDING SEVERAL HOURS IN THE WATER AND
HAS SINCE RETURNED TO THE SQUADRON.

THE RAIDS ON OHIOKI CONTINUED AT REGULAR INTER-
VALS. SHIPPING WAS KEPT UNDER OBSERVATION AND THE AIR-
FIELD AND RADIO STATIONS WERE HIT WITH BOTH 500 LB. BOMBS
AND ROCKETS. LITTLE AA WAS ENCOUNTERED DURING THESE
MISSIONS.

WHenever possible TRAINING MISSIONS ARE BEING RUN
WITH THE NEW PILOTS IN THE SQUADRON. LACK OF SHIPS AND THE
NECESSITY OF WORKING ON THEM THE DAY BEFORE A VLF HAS
HAUPERED THIS EFFORT SOMEWHAT, HOWEVER.

THE MONTH OF MAY HAS BEEN NOTABLE FROM THE STAND-
POINT OF OPERATIONS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF THE EXCELLENT
COMBAT RECORD THE SQUADRON IS RUNNING UP, BUT BECAUSE OF
THE ABSENCE OF TAXI ACCIDENTS IN SPITE OF THE WEATHER AND
THE RESULTING BAD RUNWAY.

ENGINEERING:

MAINTENANCE CONTINUED TO ABSORB THE SECTION THIS
MONTH. PROPS LEAKING OIL GAVE TROUBLE, AND A FEW ENGINE
CHANGES WERE ALSO NECESSARY. IT WAS QUITE A PROBLEM TO
MAKE MAJOR REPLACEMENTS LIKE THIS AND YET SAFEGUARD THE
NEW ENGINES AND PROPS FROM THE EVER-PRESENT DUST.

[REDACTED]

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FIVE NEW P-51D-25 PLANES WERE RECEIVED FROM GUAM
THIS MONTH. SSGT HRADSKY WAS FLOWN THERE TO SERVICE THEM
PRIOR TO THEIR LEAVING FOR TWO JUNA.

A NIGHT MAINTENANCE CREW WAS SET UP INCLUDING
SOME OF THE BEST MEN IN THE SECTION. TSGT STONE WAS
PLACED IN CHARGE. WORKING HOURS EXTENDED USUALLY FROM
SUN-DOWN TO SUN-UP. THESE MEN HAVE DONE A FINE JOB OF
KEEPING A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PLANES AVAILABLE FOR OUR
VLR MISSIONS.

THE SUPPLY SITUATION HAS IMPROVED OVER PREVIOUS
MONTHS. LITTLE TIME HAS BEEN LOST DUE TO PLANES BEING
GROUNDED FOR PARTS.

MAINTENANCE HAS ENCOUNTERED MUCH HARDSHIP ARISING
OUT OF CANCELLATION OF VLR MISSIONS. AFTER A LOT OF HARD
WORK IN THE HEAT AND DUST, AIRPLANES ARE PUT INTO TIP-TOP
SHAPE, AND EXTERNAL TANKS ARE HUNG. THEN THE VLR MISSION
WILL BE CANCELLED AND A HEAVY TRAINING FLIGHT PROGRAM
WILL TAKE ITS PLACE. THIS NECESSITATES DROPPING EXTERNAL
TANKS. AFTER THE DAY'S TRAINING FLIGHTS ARE COMPLETED,
PLANES AND ENGINES MUST BE WORKED OVER AGAIN AND EXTERNAL
TANKS HUNG AGAIN. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT WHEN A VLR MISSION
IS CANCELLED, THE NEXT DAY'S FLYING PROGRAM BE HELD TO A
MINIMUM, OR, THAT THE NEXT DAY BE RESERVED FOR A MAINTEN-

[REDACTED]

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ANCE DAY. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ABORTS FROM A VLR MISSION
WILL BE GREATLY LESSENNED THEREBY.

5. SUPPLY:

THERE WAS LITTLE VARIATION IN SUPPLY FUNCTIONS
DURING THE MONTH. SEVEN QUONSET HUTS WERE RECEIVED AND
THEIR ERECTION WILL MARK THE FIRST PERMANENT INSTALLATIONS
IN THE SQUADRON AREA. THESE QUONSETS ARE BEING DISTRIBUTED
ACCORDING TO THE BASE DEVELOPMENT PLAN, THREE FOR THE
SQUADRON MESS AND THE REMAINDER FOR PILOTS' QUARTERS.

QUARTERMASTER LAUNDRY HAS NOTIFIED PERSONNEL
SUPPLY THAT SQUADRON LAUNDRY MAY NOW BE SENT. THIS IS
A RELIEF TO EVERYONE AS IT HAS BEEN A PROBLEM TO WASH
CLOTHES IN SALT WATER OR IN SUCH RAIN WATER AS COULD BE
CAUGHT. THE LIMIT SET OF TEN PIECES PER INDIVIDUAL SEEMS
SMALL CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT THE MEN HAVE BEEN ASHORE
THREE MONTHS WITHOUT LAUNDRY SERVICE. OBTAINING OF SALT
WATER SOAP HAS ALSO BEEN A PROBLEM.

IT IS HOPED THAT HIGHER ECHELON WILL BE ABLE TO
PUSH "NOT IN STOCKS" FOR AIR FORCE EQUIPMENT THAT ARE PILING
UP AND CHECK INTO THE SITUATION TO SEE WHAT CAUSES THE DE-
LAY IN SHIPPING ITEMS WHICH ARE NECESSARY BUT WHICH DO NOT
ACTUALLY GROUND AN AIRPLANE.

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6. ARMAMENT:

AS ANTICIPATED LAST MONTH, ROCKETS HAVE BEEN A LARGE ITEM IN THE SQUADRON ACTIVITIES THIS MONTH. IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO WORK WITH ROCKETS, FOR SOMETHING NEW ALWAYS STEPS UP INTEREST. ANNEXED TO THIS REPORT AS EXHIBIT "C" IS A PICTORIAL DESCRIPTION OF THIS DEVELOPMENT IN ARMAMENT.

THREE OF OUR MEN WERE RETURNED TO THE MAINLAND FOR FURLONGHS; S.SGT KIRM, SGT PLEASE, AND SGT CASE. SGT CASE HAS MORE THAN 95 POINTS AND IT IS LIKELY THAT HE WILL REMAIN IN THE STATES FOR SEPARATION FROM THE SERVICE.

FIVE NEW PLANES WERE RECEIVED THIS MONTH AND THEY CONTAINED THE K-14A COMPUTING TYPE GUN SIGHTS. WHILE WE DO NOT YET HAVE TOO MUCH INFORMATION ABOUT THIS SIGHT, WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT IT; ENOUGH TO FIND OUT THAT IT IS A DELICATE MECHANISM AND WILL REQUIRE MUCH MORE MAINTENANCE THAN ANY SIGHT HERETOFORE.

7. ORDNANCE:

SEVERAL VLR MISSIONS PLUS AN INCREASING ROCKET PROGRAM KEPT THIS SECTION HUSTLING THROUGHOUT MAY. PREPARATION OF THE ROCKETS BY THE ORDNANCE SECTION IS A TIME

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CONSUMING JOB. BESIDES BEING WELL PACKED, THE ROCKETS
REQUIRE CAREFUL HANDLING.

T.SGT ADAMS IS THE NEW SECTION HEAD OF ORDNANCE.
HE FILLS THE VAGANCY LEFT BY T.SGT MARKLE. DURING THE FOUR
MONTH PERIOD PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF T.SGT MARKLE'S REPLACEMENT,
S.SGT SCOTT ACTED AS SECTION HEAD AND DID A FINE JOB.
HE IS NOW IN THE AMMUNITION SECTION AND IN CHARGE OF IT.

TWO MEN OF THE ORDNANCE SECTION SHOULD BE NOTED
FOR THE SERVICE THEY RENDER OTHERS OUTSIDE THEIR REGULAR
DUTY. SGT CODY HAS KEPT THE TYPEWRITERS OF THE 78TH AND
SEVERAL OTHER UNITS RUNNING FOR MORE THAN TWO YEARS. HE
HAS FIXED TYPEWRITERS IN A MATTER OF A FEW HOURS ELIMINATING
THE NECESSITY OF SENDING THEM TO THE QM FOR REPAIR.
PFC ENGLISH, A WATCH REPAIRMAN IN CIVILIAN LIFE, BY FOLLOWING
THAT TRADE IN HIS SPARE TIME HE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN
OUR PRESENT ISOLATED LOCATION.

8. PHOTO LAB:

THE PHOTO LAB PROCESSED 2,250 FEET OF 16MM FILM
DURING MAY TOPPING THE FIGURE FOR APRIL. THE USE OF
KODACHROME FILM ON VLR MISSIONS WAS INSTITUTED WITH
FLIGHT AND ELEMENT LEADERS CARRYING THE COLORED FILM WHILE
THE WING MEN CONTINUED TO PACK THE BLACK AND WHITE.

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DURING THE MONTH LT JOSEPH H. FAHEY JR. WAS AP-
POINTED PHOTO OFFICER TO REPLACE CAPTAIN MERRILL WHO LEFT
ON FURLOUGH. THE SECTION ALSO LOST THE SERVICES OF SSGT
MICHAEL COSSACK, FIRST MAN TO RETURN TO THE MAINLAND UNDER
THE DEMOBILIZATION POINT SYSTEM.

C-3 CAMERA ACTIVITIES WERE MAINLY CONCERNED WITH
PREPARATION OF A PICTURE STORY ON THE FIRST ROCKET MISSION.
ALSO, SOME WORK REQUESTED BY THE S-2 SECTION WAS DONE WITH
THIS CAMERA.

9. COMMUNICATIONS:

DURING MAY, ALL BO-706 INERTIA SWITCHES WERE
CHANGED FROM THE GEADREST TO THE POWER OUTLET STATION.
THIS WAS DONE TO PREVENT THE CANOPY FROM JAMMING UNDER THE
SWITCH DURING AN EMERGENCY RELEASE.

FIVE NEW PLANES WERE ASSIGNED TO THIS SQUADRON
DURING THE MONTH WITH NEW RADAR EQUIPMENT INSTALLED. THIS
RADAR EQUIPMENT AN/APS/13 WAS REMOVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH A
LETTER RECEIVED FROM GROUP HEADQUARTERS ON MAY 30TH AND
TURNED IN TO THE 386TH SERVICE GROUP.

SINCE THE EARLY PART OF THIS MONTH, OUR SECTION HAS
HAD TO DRAW ITS POWER FOR THE LINE AREA FROM THE 45TH
FIGHTER SQUADRON DUE TO OUR PE-95-G GENERATOR BURNING OUT.
THE GENERATOR HAS BEEN TURNED INTO THE SIGNAL DEPOT FOR

[REDACTED]

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REPAIR AND NORMAL OPERATION WILL BE RESUMED WHEN IT IS
REPAIRED.

ON MAY 15TH A HURRICANE CAUSED DAMAGE TO THIS
SECTION'S MAINTENANCE TENT AND ALSO TO SOME OF THE RADIO
EQUIPMENT. A NEW TENT WAS PUT UP AND THE RADIO EQUIPMENT
WAS REPAIRED BY THE MAINTENANCE MEN. THE SOR 395 WAS
SAND BAGGED ALL AROUND SO AS TO PREVENT ANY DIRT FROM GET-
TING UNDERNEATH IT. THIS SECTION RECEIVED A REQUEST FROM
GROUP FOR TWO LS-12'S WHICH WERE PART OF OUR RA-5 SYSTEM.
THEY WERE TURNED OVER TO GROUP'S SPECIAL SERVICE DEPART-
MENT TO BE USED FOR THE CONSOLIDATED GROUP THEATRE.

ON THE BASIS OF OUR EXPERIENCES UP TO NOW, WE
RECOMMEND THAT IN FUTURE MOVES A PRE-FABRICATED STRUCTURE
BE SUPPLIED FOR MESSAGE CENTER AND RADIO MAINTENANCE. A
SPARE TC-11 OR TC-12, AND RA-62-B SHOULD BE CARRIED BY
GROUP FOR THE SQUADRONS IN CASE OF LOSS OR DAMAGE OF
AUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT. SEVERAL MILES OF 5 PAIR CABLE
SHOULD BE SUPPLIED EACH SQUADRON FOR PROPER TELEPHONE
SYSTEM.

LT HUBBUCH, OUR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, LEFT ON
FURLOUGH THE EARLY PART OF THIS MONTH AND HIS DUTIES WERE
ASSUMED BY LT CARR, ONE OF THE PILOTS. THE SECTION ACQUIRED
PFC RAYMOND COOKSEY, A NEW RADIO MECHANIC, DURING THE MONTH.

[REDACTED]

70TH FTR SQ, SUGG: "MONTHLY
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10. MEDICS:

THE MEDICAL SECTION CONTINUED TO OPERATE ACCORD-
ING TO FIGHTER COMMAND POLICY WHICH STIPULATES THAT A
GROUP DISPENSARY SHALL BE THE SMALLEST FUNCTIONAL MEDICAL
UNIT. THIS HAS MADE FOR INCREASED EFFICIENCY IN MEDICAL
CARE AND HAS ELIMINATED REDUPLICATION OF EFFORT.

A QUORSET HUT WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR A SICK CALL
AND STORAGE ROOM, ELIMINATING THE HEAT, DUST, AND INCON-
VENIENCE OF A TENT.

11. TRANSPORTATION:

THE BIGGEST PROBLEM IN THE FORWARD AREA IS STILL
THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLY. ALTHOUGH LAST MONTH WE WERE FOR-
TUNATE ENOUGH TO GET MOST OF THE SPARE PARTS WE REQUISI-
TIONED; THIS PAST MONTH HAS BEEN JUST THE OPPOSITE. IT
WOULD SEEM THAT THE SUPPLYING AGENCIES SHOULD KEEP A
LARGE STOCK OF THE SMALL ITEMS REQUESTED SUCH AS CRANK-
SHAFT PULLEY, MAIN SPRINGS, AND FUEL PUMP DIAPHRAGM. HAV-
ING TO WAIT FOR THESE ITEMS MEANS THAT THE VEHICLES ARE
GROUNDED AND OF NO USE TO THE ORGANIZATION DURING THEIR
PERIOD OF CONFINEMENT.

GASOLINE WAS ANOTHER ITEM IN WHICH WE HAD AN
ABUTE SHORTAGE FOR ABOUT A WEEK. THIS SHORTAGE HOWEVER,

[REDACTED]

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WAS DUE TO NATURAL CAUSES. OWING TO A ROUGH SEA, THE FUEL BOATS COULDN'T GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO SHORE TO PUPE THEIR CARGO TO THE STORAGE TANKS ASHORE. WHEN THE TANKS IN THE VEHICLES WERE ABOUT HALF EMPTY, WE ADDED 100 OCTANE GAS TO THE 80 OCTANE, AND THUS MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH.

NEAR THE END OF THE MONTH THE SECTION WENT BACK TO REAR AREA OPERATIONS AS FAR AS TRIP TICKETS AND ISSUING OF DRIVERS' PERMITS WERE CONCERNED. ALL VEHICLES MUST NOW BE DISPATCHED WITH A TRIP TICKET AND THE DRIVER MUST POSSESS A GI LICENSE.

CONTINUAL RAINS AND HIGH HUMIDITY HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT TO START THE VEHICLES IN THE MORNINGS, CAUSING SPARK PLUGS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO SHORT OUT. MEN HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO WIPE DRY BOTH PLUGS AND POINTS BEFORE STARTING ENGINES ON THESE MORNINGS.

ANOTHER OF OUR JEEPS WAS TRANSFERRED TO 15TH FIGHTER GROUP HEADQUARTERS. TWO VEHICLES ARE BEING REPAIRED BY THE 386TH SERVICE GROUP 30 ECHELON REPAIR SHOP.

MANY EXTRA DEMANDS HAVE BEEN MADE UPON OUR PERSONNEL WHICH THEY ARE CHEERFULLY MEETING. THEY HAVE BUILT A SHELTER OVER THE LARGE GENERATOR WHICH FURNISHES POWER FOR THE QUARTERS AREA. AN AREA IS ALSO BEING CLEARED FOR THE REBUILDING OF A NEW WORKSHOP. A DRIVER IS BEING LENT TO THE ENGINEERING SECTION EACH DAY TO DRIVE ONE OF THEIR

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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FUEL TANKS.

12. INTELLIGENCE:

ACTIVITIES OF THE S-2 SECTION MOUNTED AND GREW MORE DIVERSIFIED DURING MAY, 1945. NINETEEN MISSIONS CARRIED IN THEIR WAKE THE MASS OF PROCEDURE USUALLY ACCOMPANYING COMBAT SORTIES. PREPARATION OF STRIP MAPS WAS AIDED BY THE DECISION OF GROUP TO USE THE FACILITIES OF THE 386TH SERVICE GROUP FOR THE PHOTOSTATING OF STRIP MAPS. EVEN SO, POSTPONEMENT OF MISSIONS NECESSITATED OVERPASTING OF NEW CODE NAMES ON THE PHOTOSTAT, A LABORIOUS PROCESS. MOREOVER, IN SPITE OF THE COMPARATIVELY FEW VLR MISSIONS FLOWN, A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF DAMAGE WAS INFLICTED UPON THE ENEMY AND THIS ENTAILED THE PREPARATION OF DESTRUCTION CLAIMS. TOO, THERE WAS MUCH MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL AMONG THE PILOTS AND MANY INDIVIDUAL COMBAT SORTIE RECORDS HAD TO BE DRAWN UP.

THE CENSORSHIP DEPARTMENT OF S-2 SPENT A BUSY MONTH PROCESSING PACKAGES CONTAINING JAP SOUVENIRS WHICH PERSONNEL DESIRED TO SEND HOME.

IT WAS IN INFORMATION AND EDUCATION HOWEVER, THAT THE INCREASE IN ACTIVITY WAS MOST MARKED. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH A SUBSCRIPTION TO YANK MAGAZINE WAS

[REDACTED]

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ARRANGED FOR INTERESTED PERSONNEL. ORIENTATION LECTURES WERE HELD WEEKLY IN THE SQUADRON AREA, AND THE EVENTS OF THE MONTH, INCLUDING VE DAY, SPURRED INTEREST IN THE LECTURES ON THE POINT SYSTEM, DEMOBILIZATION, AND POST WAR BENEFITS TO VETERANS. ON MAY 11TH LT MICHAELIDES DISCUSSED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF VE DAY. ON MAY 13TH THE WAR DEPARTMENT PICTURE, "TWO DOWN, ONE TO GO", WAS SHOWN. ON MAY 16TH, LT FISCHER OF GROUP, SGT FREDERICKS OF GROUP, AND S.SGT AMMERMAN OF THIS SECTION CONDUCTED A ROUND TABLE FORUM ON THE GI BILL OF RIGHTS. ON MAY 25TH CPO DEAN MARSHALL OF A NEARBY CB OUTFIT, THE 133D NCB, SPOKE ABOUT THE SEABEES' ROLE IN THE WAR. HIS EXCELLENT LECTURE CE-MENTED FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR SQUADRON AND THE CB UNITS.

THE ORIENTATION BULLETIN BOARD IN THE SQUADRON AREA WAS A VICTIM OF MAY'S HURRICANE. IT WAS PROMPTLY RECONSTRUCTED AND IN FACT IMPROVED TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT IT RECEIVED THE COMMENDATION OF MAJOR BURKE DURING HIS TOUR OF INSPECTION AS AAPOA I & E OFFICER.

DESPITE THE ALREADY OVERBURDENED SCHEDULE OF THE SECTION, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WERE ALSO INITIATED DURING MAY. A CURRICULUM OF LECTURES FOR PILOT TRAINING WAS DRAWN UP BY LT MICHAELIDES. IT COVERED NAVIGATIONAL,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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GEOGRAPHICAL, ASR, SECURITY, FIGHTER VOCABULARY, AND RE-
COGNITION SUBJECTS FOR ALL PILOTS. LECTURES WERE PREPARED
AND GIVEN WHENEVER THE FLYING SCHEDULES PERMITTED.

NON-MILITARY EDUCATION TOOK THE FORM OF A DRIVE
FOR ENROLLMENTS IN THE USAFI AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A
SCHOOL IN THE SQUADRON AREA WHERE BASIC ENGLISH, BUSINESS
ENGLISH, BUSINESS ARITHMETIC AND SHORTHAND WOULD BE TAUGHT
IN THE EVENING HOURS TO INTERESTED PERSONNEL. CLASSES ARE
SCHEDULED TO START THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE, AND PRELIMINARY
ENROLLMENT NUMBERS ALMOST 50 OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN. A
SPECIAL TENT HAS BEEN CREATED TO SERVE AS SCHOOLHOUSE AND
STUDY LIBRARY.

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EXHIBIT A

78TH FTR SQ COMBAT MISSIONS DURING MAY, 1945

SQUADRON MISSION #5-1, 1 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED RADIO STATION #7 ON CHICHI JIMA.

SQ MISSION #5-2, 1 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED SUSAKI AIRFIELD ON CHICHI JIMA. A/W WERE MEAGER AND INACCURATE.

SQ MISSION #5-3, 7 MAY 45, 6 P-51'S: FOUR PLANES DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED SHIPPING IN FUTAMI KO, AND STRAFED BARRACKS AREA IN TA 174 P-U, CHICHI JIMA. TWO PLANES, JOSEPHINE AND ESCORT ORBITTED THREE MILES WEST OF CHICHI WHILE STRIKE WAS IN PROGRESS.

SQ MISSION #5-4, 8 MAY 45, 14 P-51'S ACTED AS HIGH COVER FOR 21ST GROUP AND THEN IN A LOW LEVEL ATTACK STRAFED TATEYAMA AIRFIELD, TOKYO AREA. AA AND A/W WERE INTENSE AND ACCURATE. THE SQUADRON DESTROYED A FOX TARE DOG, AND TWO LOCOMOTIVES, AND DAMAGED THREE SMALL LANDING BARGES, 3 BARGES, A TUGBOAT AND A PICKET BOAT. WE SUFFERED NO LOSS.

SQ MISSION #5-5, 10 MAY 45, 8 P-51'S: CONTROL ORDERED INTERCEPTION TO THE NORTH OF IWO JIMA. BOGEYS WERE IDENTIFIED FRIENDLY.

SQ MISSION #5-6, 10 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED RADIO STATION #7 ON CHICHI JIMA AND STRAFED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN TA 174 A. AA AND A/W WERE MEAGER AND INACCURATE.

SQ MISSION #5-7, 19 MAY 45, 16 P-51'S: VLR ESCORT OF B-29'S OVER TACHIKAWA AIRFIELD, TOKYO AREA. EXTREMELY ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS ENCOUNTERED NEAR LANDFALL AT JAPAN FORCING OUR FORCES TO RETURN.

SQ MISSION #5-8, 19 MAY 45, 2 P-51'S, JOSEPHINE AND ESCORT FOR MISSION TO CHICHI JIMA BY 506TH GROUP. JOSEPHINE AND ESCORT FLEW WITH STRIKE FORCE ENTIRE MISSION PATROLLING WEST COAST OF CHICHI WHILE THE STRIKE WAS IN PROGRESS.

SQ MISSION #5-9, 19 MAY 45, 3 P-51'S: CONTROL ORDERED INTERCEPTION TO THE WEST OF IWO JIMA. BOGEY WAS IDENTIFIED FRIENDLY. FLIGHT THEN SEARCHED FOR PLANE WITH EMERGENCY IFF ON. NO OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE.

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SQ MISSION #5-10, 21 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED RADIO STATION #7 AND STRAFED MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN TA 174 K-P ON OHICHI JIMA. STRAFED RADAR INSTALLATION IN TA 343V ON HABA JIMA.

SQ MISSION #5-11, 22 MAY 45, 1 P-51: JOSEPHINE PROVIDED FOR 506TH GROUP MISSION AGAINST OHICHI JIMA. JOSEPHINE FLEW WITH STRIKE FORCE THE ENTIRE MISSION.

SQ MISSION #5-12, 24 MAY 45, 18 P-51'S: FIGHTER SWEEP AND LOW LEVEL STRAFING ATTACK AGAINST MATSUDO AIRFIELD, TOKYO AREA, WHEN 250 MILES FROM BASE SECTOR, SEVERE WEATHER FRONT WAS ENCOUNTERED AND STRIKE FORCE WAS COMPELLED TO RETURN TO BASE.

SQ MISSION #5-13, 25 MAY 45, 10 P-51'S: LOW LEVEL ROCKET AND STRAFING ATTACK ON MATSUDO AIRFIELD, TOKYO AREA, AND FIGHTER SWEEP NORTH OF TOKYO. THE SQUADRON DESTROYED ONE JAP PLANE AND DAMAGED FIVE OTHERS ON MATSUDO AIRFIELD. IN THE AIR SEVEN JAP FIGHTERS WERE DESTROYED AND ONE DAMAGED. THIS MISSION INCLUDED THE FIRST ARMY FIGHTER ROCKET FLIGHT SENT OVER THE JAPANESE MAINLAND. THE ROCKETS PROVED THEMSELVES A LETHAL WEAPON AND BROUGHT HEAVY DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION TO ENEMY INSTALLATIONS ON MATSUDO AIRFIELD. IN TOKYO BAY THE SQUADRON DESTROYED ONE FOX TARE DOG AND DAMAGED A JAP LST. LT WILLIAMS, LOST OVER THE TARGET AREA WAS REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION. LT KREIMANN BAILED OUT 25 MILES NORTH OF TORI SHIMA AND WAS PICKED UP BY ONE OF OUR SUBMARINES.

SQ MISSION #5-14, 25 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: CONTROL ORDERED SEARCH FOR LIFE RAFT AND POSSIBLE SURVIVOR TEN MILES NORTH OF HOT ROCKS. NO OBSERVATIONS WERE MADE.

SQ MISSION #5-15, 27 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: ROCKET FLIGHT AGAINST REPORTED SHIPPING IN FUTAMI KO, OHICHI JIMA. TARGET COMPLETELY OVERCAST AND FLIGHT RETURNED TO BASE WITHOUT FIRING ROCKETS.

SQ MISSION #5-16, 28 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: ROCKET AND STRAFING MISSION AGAINST SHIPPING IN FUTAMI KO, OHICHI JIMA. FLIGHT SAW TEN SUGAR DOGS IN THE HARBOR AREA. ONE ROCKET HIT A SUGAR DOG IN TA 240B, FOUR ROCKETS HIT IN THE AREA OF RADIO STATION #1, TWO ROCKETS HIT IN TA 263Q, AND TWO HIT ALONG THE NORTHWEST SHORE OF FUTAMI KO. AT HABA JIMA THE FLIGHT HEAVILY STRAFED AND BUNKER A SUGAR DOG IN TA 1020. MEAGER AND INACCURATE A/W FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AT OHICHI JIMA; INTENSE AND INACCURATE A/W FIRE WAS ENCOUNTERED AT

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HANA JIMA.

SQ MISSION #5-17, 28 MAY 45, 5 P-51'S: ROCKET AND STRAFING
ATTACK BY FOUR PLANES ON SHIPPING IN FUTAMI KO, CHICHI
JIMA. ROCKETS HIT AMONG SHIPPING AND BUILDING AREAS ALONG
THE DOCKS. ONE PLANE, JOSEPHINE, REMAINED WITH THE STRIKE
FORCE THE ENTIRE MISSION ORBITTING ON THE WEST SIDE OF
CHICHI JIMA WHILE THE STRIKE WAS IN PROGRESS.

SQ MISSION #5-18, 29 MAY 45, 17 P-51'S: VLR ESCORT OF B-29'S
OVER YOKOHAMA, HONSHU. THE SQUADRON DESTROYED FIVE JAP
FIGHTERS IN THE AIR, PROBABLY DESTROYED THREE AND DAMAGED
FOUR OTHERS. ONE OF OUR PILOTS WAS FORCED TO BAIL OUT
NORTH OF KITA ROCK DUE TO LACK OF GASOLINE.

SQ MISSION #5-18, 31 MAY 45, 4 P-51'S: DIVE BOMBED AND
STRAFED RADIO STATION #1 ON CHICHI JIMA.

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EXHIBIT B

RESULTS OF MISSIONS FLOWN DURING MAY, 1945

1. DESTRUCTION OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT, SHIPPING AND INSTALLATIONS.

- A. MISSION OF MAY 25TH OVER MATSUDO AIRFIELD, JAPAN:
 ✓ ONE TOJO DESTROYED IN AIR BY MAJOR JAMES B. TAPP
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY CAPT VICTOR K. MOLLAN
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY CAPT MOLLAN AND
 LT WILLIAMS
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY CAPT ROBERT W. MOORE
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY CAPT ROBERT W. MOORE
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY 1ST LT ROBERT CORYELL
 ✓ ONE TOJO DESTROYED IN AIR BY 1ST LT PHILIP MAHER
 ONE NICK DESTROYED ON GROUND BY CAPT ROBERT MOORE
 ONE FOX TARE DOG DESTROYED AT SEA BY MAJOR JAMES
 B. TAPP AND LT PHILIP J. MAHER
- B. MISSION OF MAY 26TH OVER HAHU JIMA:
 ONE SUGAR DOG DESTROYED AT SEA BY MAJOR TAPP,
 LT FRANKLIN B. MONTGOMERY AND LT DANIEL MATHIS
- C. MISSION OF MAY 29TH OVER YOKOHAMA, JAPAN:
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY MAJOR JAMES B. TAPP
 ✓ ONE ZEKE DESTROYED IN AIR BY 1ST LT JEROME YELLIN
 AND 2D LT DANIEL MATHIS
 ✓ ONE TOJO DESTROYED IN AIR BY 1ST LT ROBERT CARR
 AND 1ST LT RICHARD SCHROEPPEL
 ✓ ONE HAMP DESTROYED IN AIR BY 1ST LT ROBERT CAREY
 ✓ ONE JACK DESTROYED IN AIR BY CAPT RICHARD DUERR

2. TOTAL SORTIES DISPATCHED:

- A. COMBAT SORTIES DISPATCHED DURING MAY (INCLUDING
 ABORTIVES) 149.
- B. TOTAL ABORTIVE SORTIES 35.
- C. TOTAL CAP SORTIES (INCLUDING ABORTIVES) 84.
- D. TOTAL CAP ABORTIVE SORTIES 6.
- E. TOTAL TONNAGE OF BOMBS DROPPED 10.0 GP DEMO.
- F. TOTAL ROCKETS EXPENDED 72.

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EXHIBIT C

FIRST ROCKET MISSION BY LAND-BASED FIGHTERS AGAINST THE
JAP MAINLAND.

PHOTO

1. AFTER THE ROCKETS ARE PAINSTAKINGLY UNPACKED, FILMS
ARE CAREFULLY FITTED INTO PREPARED SLOTS.

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PHOTO

2. ON THE WINGS OF THE P-51 SPECIAL MOUNTINGS ARE
INSTALLED READY TO RECEIVE THE ROCKETS.

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PHOTO

3. SPECIAL ELECTRICAL WIRING IS INSTALLED RUNNING
FROM THE COCKPIT CONTROLS TO THE ROCKET MOUNTINGS AND IS
CHECKED FOR CONTINUITY.

[REDACTED]
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PHOTO

1. HANGING THE ROCKETS IS A THREE MAN JOB. TWO OF
THE MEN LIFT; THE THIRD GUIDES.

[REDACTED]

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PHOTO

5. WITH THREE ROCKETS HUNG UNDER EACH WING OF THE
PLANE, INSTALLATION OF FUSES BECOMES THE NEXT STEP.

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PHOTO

5. ATTACHING NOSE FUSES TO THE ROCKETS IS A DELICATE,
EXACTING TASK. MARK 149 NOSE FUSES ARE CURRENTLY USED.

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PHOTO

7. ARMING WIRE, INSERTED IN THE NOSE FUSE, ACTS AS
A SAFETY DEVICE.

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PHOTO

5. THE ROCKETS ARE NOW FULLY HUNG AND FUSED, AND
THE ARMING WIRE IS IN PLACE RUNNING FROM THE NOSE FUSE
TO THE MOUNTING.

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PHOTO

9. ROCKETS DEMAND EXTRA LARGE GAS TANKS ON THE WINGS
TO PROVIDE FUEL FOR THE ADDED WEIGHT.

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PHOTO

10. PLUGGED IN, THE ROCKETS ARE READY FOR FIRING.

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11. THE FIRST ROCKET MISSION OVER THE JAP MAINLAND BY ARMY FIGHTER PLANES WAS LED BY MAJOR JAMES D. TAPP ON 25 MAY 1945 WHEN FLIGHTS UNDER HIS COMMAND PARTICIPATED IN A FIGHTER SWEEP AGAINST MATSUO AIRFIELD, TOKYO AREA. MAJOR TAPP'S COMMENTS CONCERNING THE MISSION AS WELL AS THE TESTING PRELIMINARY TO THE MISSION FOLLOW:

"A TEST WAS RUN ON THE P-51D-20 TO DETERMINE ITS CAPABILITY AS A LONG RANGE ROCKET CARRYING PLANE.

IT WAS FOUND THAT THE ROCKET INSTALLATION ITSELF DID NOT CUT DOWN THE SPEED APPRECIABLY THOUGH THERE WAS SOME SUCH EFFECT AT HIGH SPEEDS. WITH FIVE INCH ROCKETS MOUNTED IT WAS NECESSARY TO USE FIVE MORE INCHES UP FOR A CORRESPONDING RPM.

EXTERNAL WING TANKS HOLDING 165 GALLONS OF GASOLINE EACH, WERE REQUIRED BY THE ADDED WEIGHT. THE EXTRA WEIGHT AFFECTED MANEUVERABILITY BUT NOT STABILITY. TESTS WERE RUN TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF RUNWAY AT FULL POWER. A DOWN WIND TAKEOFF WAS SUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED BUT IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT IT BE USED ONLY IN EMERGENCY CASES. IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE PLANE BE ALLOWED TO ACCELERATE TO FLYING SPEED WITH THE TAIL IN THE AIR BEFORE ANY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO TAKE OFF. BY TRYING TO GET OFF EARLY THE INDUCED DRAG IS SO GREAT THAT IT WILL NOT ALLOW THE PLANE TO ACCELERATE TO THE PROPER SPEED, A SPEED OF 120 MILES PER HOUR.

AFTER FIELD TESTS, A FOUR SHIP FLIGHT WAS SET UP, AND TWO SUCH FLIGHTS WERE USED AGAINST AN ACTUAL TARGET. THIS TARGET WAS MATSUO AIRFIELD, JAPAN.

IT WAS FOUND THAT TO HOLD POSITION IN FLIGHT AT 10,000 FEET, 2300 RPM AND 40 INCHES OF MP WERE NEEDED. SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING RENDEZVOUS THE FORMATION CLIMBED TO 23,000 FEET OVER A FRONT. IT THEN CONTINUED AT AN ALTITUDE OF 10,000 FEET. AT THAT ALTITUDE IT WAS NECESSARY TO USE A GREAT DEAL OF POWER TO HOLD POSITION.

EVEN THOUGH THE EXTERNAL WING TANKS STILL HELD FUEL, THEY WERE DROPPED AT THE COAST LINE OF JAPAN. WHEN THE TARGET WAS REACHED, A GROUP OF HANGARS AT MATSUO AIRFIELD WERE SELECTED FOR THE ROCKET PASS. THESE WERE LARGE-SIZED, WELL ENCLOSED HANGARS. IT WAS HOPED THEY WOULD CONTAIN AIRCRAFT IN STORAGE OR UNDER MAINTENANCE.

THIS HOPE WAS JUSTIFIED, FOR, AFTER THE ROCKETS HAD BEEN FIRED INTO THE HANGARS, ONE HANGAR BEGAN TO BURN FURIOUSLY, EJECTING THICK CLOUDS OF THICK BLACK SMOKE TO AN ALTITUDE OF 10,000 FEET."

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"WHILE THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO ASCERTAIN THE CONTENTS OF THIS HANGAR IT WAS LOGICAL TO ASSUME IT MUST HAVE CONTAINED A NUMBER OF JAP AIRCRAFT. THE EXTENT OF THE BLAZE AS WE LEFT THE TARGET PRESAGED THAT BOTH THIS HANGAR AND ITS ENTIRE CONTENTS WOULD BE TOTALLY DESTROYED. SINCE NO SIMILAR RESULT COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED ON A MERE STRAFING RUN WITH ORDINARY .50 CAL AMMUNITION, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT ROCKET BEARING FIGHTERS WILL CONTRIBUTE ENORMOUSLY TO THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FIGHTER SWEEPS ESPECIALLY OVER DISTANCES WHICH PRECLUDE THE CARRYING OF 500 POUND DEMOLITION BOMBS.

IN THE PARTICULAR ATTACK CITED ABOVE, THE PASS WAS STARTED FROM 6,000 FEET IN A 30 DEGREE DIVE ANGLE INDICATING 400 MPH. THREE ROCKETS WERE FIRED, THE PLANE WAS PULLED OUT AT 700 FEET AND THEN UP GAINING A LITTLE ALTITUDE, AND THEN THE REMAINDER OF THE ROCKETS WERE FIRED EXCEPT FOR ONE WHICH HUNG UP. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE 5-3-25 TYPE ROCKET INSTALLATION BE USED."