

78TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO 86

P.R.C.

9 JULY 1945

SUBJECT: MONTHLY INSTALLMENT OF UNIT HISTORY FOR JUNE.

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 JUNE
IS HEREBY SUBMITTED.

FOR THE SQUADRON COMMANDER:

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

DECLASSIFIED
DOD DIR 5200.9

04057302

5-1382-53

78TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF
APO 86

9 JULY 1945

ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 78TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, 15TH
FIGHTER GROUP, VII FIGHTER COMMAND, ARMY AIR FORCES,
PACIFIC OCEAN AREA.

JUNE 1, 1945 - JUNE 30, 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 1 JUNE 1945, 2D LT DANIEL T MATHIS WAS REPORT-
ED AS MISSING IN ACTION WHILE ON A MISSION TO ESCORT
B-29'S OVER OSAKA. WHILE LETTING DOWN THROUGH AN OVER-
CAST AT 9,000 FEET ABOUT 350 MILES AFTER LEAVING BASE, HIS
FLIGHT ENCOUNTERED VIOLENT TRUBULENCE AND THEREAFTER
LT MATHIS WAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM.

ON 1 JUNE 1945, 2D LT JACK O. NELSON WAS RE-
PORTED AS MISSING IN ACTION WHILE ON A MISSION TO EFFECT
AN ESCORT OF B-29'S OVER OSAKA. HIS FLIGHT FLEW INTO
A SOLID BANK OF CLOUDS APPROXIMATELY 375 MILES AFTER LEAV-
ING BASE. THE FORMATION THEN MADE A TURN TO THE LEFT
AND STARTED BACK FOR BASE. AS THEY WERE IN THEIR TURN
TWO PLANES OF ANOTHER SQUADRON SWUNG THROUGH THE FORMATION.
AFTER THIS INCIDENT, LT NELSON WAS NOT AGAIN HEARD FROM
OR SEEN.

3. AWARDS TO AND DECORATIONS OF MEMBERS OF THE
IMMEDIATE UNIT INVOLVED.

MAJOR JAMES B. TAPP: DSC, DFC, AIR MEDAL WITH
FIVE OAK LEAF CLUSTERS.

CAPTAIN RICHARD DUERR: 1ST OAK LEAF CLUSTER
TO THE AIR MEDAL.

1ST LT PHILIP J. MAHER: AIR MEDAL.

1ST LT ROBERT CORYELL: AIR MEDAL.

1ST LT THOMAS MCCULLOUGH: AIR MEDAL.

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

NEGATIVE.

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

JUNE 1, 1945

61 OFFICERS
252 ENLISTED MEN

JUNE 30, 1945

64 OFFICERS
251 ENLISTED MEN

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

JUNE 1, 1945

AMOUNT	TYPE
28	P-51D
<u>1</u>	C-47A-90DL
29	TOTAL AIRPLANES

JUNE 30, 1945

<u>26</u>	P-51D
26	TOTAL AIRPLANES

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

AMOUNT	TYPE	
9	P-51D	LOST IN COMBAT OR THROUGH OPERATIONAL FACTORS.
1	C-47A	TRANSFERRED TO VII FIGHTER COMD

[REDACTED]

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1. GENERAL:

JUNE WEATHER THWARTED AN AMBITIOUS SCHEDULE OF MISSIONS PLANNED FOR THE CHAMPING MUSTANGS. IT WAS NOT SO MUCH THE LOCAL WEATHER WHICH INTERFERED AS IT WAS CONDITIONS OVER THE TARGET OR BETWEEN THE TARGET AND BASE. SQUADRON MISSIONS TOTALLED 22 OF WHICH FOUR WERE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED VLR MISSIONS. ON FIVE OTHER PROSPECTIVE VLR MISSIONS, WEATHER FORCED THE FLIERS TO RETURN WITHOUT REACHING THEIR OBJECTIVE. THE REMAINING MISSIONS CONSISTED OF SEARCH, INTERCEPTION AND CHICHI JIMA FORAYS. ANNEXED HERETO AS EXHIBIT "A" IS A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE JUNE MISSIONS. ANNEXED AS EXHIBIT "B" IS A STATEMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THESE MISSIONS.

ROCKETS BEGAN TO PLAY AN EVER-INCREASING PART IN THIS SQUADRON'S MISSIONS. GENERALLY, AT LEAST EIGHT SHIPS CARRIED THESE PROJECTILES. THE DAMAGE WREAKED BY THEM WHILE NOT OF SUCH GALLANT NATURE AS AN ENEMY PLANE DESTROYED IN THE AIR, WAS SUBSTANTIAL AND REDUCED THE OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS OF EVERY JAP AIRFIELD THEY VISITED LEVELLING THE POWER AND MAINTENANCE BUILDINGS LOCATED

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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ON THESE FIELDS. ON THE MISSION OF JUNE 5TH, ROCKETS
FIRED AT A JAP APD, SCORED HITS, AND SUCCEEDED IN DAM-
AGING THE HEAVILY ARMED VESSEL.

THE SQUADRON WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE HIGH HONOR
PAID ITS COMMANDING OFFICER, MAJOR JAMES B. TAPP, WHEN,
ON JUNE 15TH, HE WAS AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
CROSS FOR HIS ACHIEVEMENTS ON THE VLR MISSIONS TO DATE.

THE SAME COMRADESHIP AND COOPERATION WHICH HAD
CHARACTERIZED THE ENLISTED MEN SINCE THEIR ARRIVAL IN
THIS COMBAT THEATER WAS MANIFEST WHEN THE FIRST THREE
GRADERS UNANIMOUSLY DECIDED AGAINST A PROPOSAL FOR A
FIRST THREE GRADERS' CLUB ON THE GROUND THAT IT WOULD BE
UNFAIR TO THOSE LOWER GRADERS WHO, UNDER THE PRESENT
SYSTEM OF FROZEN RATINGS, COULD NOT ADVANCE IN RANK; AND
ON THE FURTHER GROUND THAT ALL RANKS HAD CONTRIBUTED
EQUALLY TO THE FINAL GOOD RESULT.

MORALE, SHAKEN BY THE GROWING REALIZATION
THAT RETURN TO THE MAINLAND WAS FAR OFF FOR MOST, WAS
SOMEWHAT TONICED BY TWO PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
QUARTERS AREA. A NEW MESS HALL, CONSTRUCTED OUT OF
THREE QUONSET HUTS WAS DESCRIBED BY MANY OF THE ENLISTED
MEN AS THE MOST COMFORTABLE AND ATTRACTIVE MESS HALL THE
SQUADRON HAD EVER PROVIDED. BREAKFAST OF JUNE 17TH WAS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THE FIRST MEAL SERVED IN THIS COOL CLEAN BUILDING.

BEGINNING JUNE 22D AND CONTINUING AT THE RATE
OF ABOUT THREE TO SIX A DAY, ENLISTED MEN'S TENTS WERE
FLOORED AND REMODELLED SO AS TO PROVIDE HIGHER CEILINGS
AND MORE OPPORTUNITY FOR AIR AS WELL AS MORE SPACE. THE
SQUADRON CARPENTER STAFF OF SGT VERNON GORDON AND CPL
MARTIN SHERIDAN ARE TO BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR UNSTINTING
COOPERATION IN HELPING TO ACCOMPLISH THE RENOVATIONS.

ON JUNE 21ST A TROPICAL STORM VISITED AND LEFT
IN ITS TWISTING WAKE MINOR DESTRUCTION WHICH WAS PROMPTLY
MENDED.

2. COMMAND AND PERSONNEL:

THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, MAJOR TAPP, LEFT ON
17 JUNE 1945 FOR LEAVE ON THE MAINLAND. DURING HIS
ABSENCE CAPTAIN JOE FITZSIMONS IS ABLE PERFORMING THE
DUTIES OF SQUADRON COMMANDER.

SGT MICHAEL CRISTINZIO, FILE CLERK OF THE
COMMAND SECTION RECEIVED HIS ORDERS FOR TDY-R ON THE
MAINLAND THE LATTER PART OF THIS MONTH. SGT CRISTINZIO
HAS BEEN OVERSEAS SINCE 20 APRIL 1943, AND THIS WILL BE
HIS FIRST FURLOUGH. IN ORDER TO OBTAIN IT, HE WAS RE-
QUIRED TO SIGN A STATEMENT OF THE EFFECT THAT HE WOULD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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REMAIN IN THE SERVICE FOR THE DURATION OF THE WAR
AGAINST JAPAN, REGARDLESS OF HIS NUMBER OF POINTS FOR
DISCHARGE. AS YET THERE HAS BEEN NO SELECTION OF A
PERSON TO FILL THE JOB OF FILE CLERK DURING THE ABSENCE
OF SGT CRISTINZIO, WHO IS EXPECTED TO BE AWAY FOR A
MINIMUM TIME OF FOUR MONTHS.

ON 22 JUNE THE TYPHOON WHICH SUDDENLY STRUCK
THE ISLAND MADE ALMOST A COMPLETE WRECK OF THE COMMAND
POST. THE TENT WAS BLOWN DOWN DURING THE NIGHT OF THE
STORM, AND MANY OF THE SUPPLIES, EQUIPMENT AND RECORDS
WERE DAMAGED BY THE RAIN AND DUST. FORTUNATELY, THE
DAMAGE WAS MOREOR LESS NEGLIGIBLE; NO IMPORTANT PAPERS
OR DOCUMENTS WERE LOST OR DESTROYED. NEXT DAY THE CP
WAS MOVED TO THE ENLISTED MEN'S MES. AND OCCUPIED ONE
END OF THE QUONSET HUT SERVING AS THE DINING ROOM. THIS
WILL BE A TEMPORARY LOCATION FOR THE CP UNTIL THE PERMAN-
ENT QUONSET HUT CAN BE ERECTED IN THE QUARTERS AREA.

AS A MEANS OF MAKING THE MEALS SOMEWHAT MORE
ENJOYABLE, THE CP OPERATES A SPECIAL SERVICES PHONOGRAPH
DURING THE THREE MEAL HOURS. THIS FEATURE HAS PROVED TO
BE VERY POPULAR WITH THE MEN.

PROMOTIONS DURING THE MONTH INCLUDED 1ST LT MAX
MARSHALL TO CAPTAIN; 2D LTS KREIMANN, KORB, MARTIN, SEDAM,

[REDACTED]

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BUTLER, CHISM, GRIVES, MILES, MONTGOMERY, OWENS, PENA,
POWERS, SCHLAMBERG, SCHROEPPLE, WESTLUND, MATHIS, NELSON,
WILLIAMS, AND SHERBUNDY TO 1ST LT; T.SGT BLATTNER TO
M.SGT; S.SGTS CLEMENT, CARPENTER, AND RISE TO T.SGT; AND
PFC'S KENNETH GRIEME AND JOSEPH KOTLIK TO CPL.

WHILE CAPTAINS MOLLAN AND PARISH WERE LOST TO
THE SQUADRON VIA REASSIGNMENT, MAJOR MOORE BY TRANSFER
TO THE 45TH, AND LT PRICE BY TRANSFER TO GROUP, SEVERAL
NEW OFFICERS WERE ADDED. THEY INCLUDED PILOTS, 1ST LT
WILBER R. BRUCKER, 2D LTS JAMES E. HILBURN AND FREDDIE
H. MURFF, AND F/O RICHARD H. TROTTER; AND COMMUNICATIONS
OFFICER, 1ST LT R.E. BARBERA.

3. OPERATIONS:

THE MONTH OF JUNE TURNED OUT TO BE THE BUSIEST
MONTH AS FAR AS FLYING TIME WAS CONCERNED, THAT IS,
BUSIEST SINCE OUR ARRIVAL AT IWO JIMA. BETWEEN COMBAT
TIME AND TRAINING MISSIONS WE AMASSED A TOTAL OF 1640
HOURS.

THE WEATHER WAS OUR BIGGEST ENEMY TURNING BACK
SEVERAL LONG RANGE MISSIONS. ON THE 1ST OF JUNE WE TOOK
OFF ON A VLR ESCORT MISSION TO OSAKA, BUT WE RAN INTO
WEATHER AND HAD TO TURN BACK LOSING LTS MATHIS AND

[REDACTED]

5

[REDACTED]

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NELSON IN THE STORM FRONT. THEY ARE PRESUMED MISSING.

ON THE MISSION OF JUNE 10TH LT MCCULLOUGH'S
PLANE WAS SHOT UP VERY BADLY WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY
FIVE JAPS AIRBORNE. HOWEVER, HE MADE IT BACK SAFELY
TO BASE, UNINJURED.

ON JUNE 15TH, CAPTAIN FITZSIMMONS DITCHED HIS
PLANE ONE MILE OFF SHORE FROM IWO DUE TO LOSS OF ENGINE
POWER. HE WAS PICKED UP BY A SURFACE CRAFT AND THEN
TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL. EXCEPT FOR A LACERATED RIGHT
NOSTRIL, HE WAS UNINJURED.

CAPTAIN FITZSIMMONS WHO ASSUMED MAJOR TAPP'S
PLACE AS CO WAS IN TURN REPLACED AS OPERATIONS OFFICER
BY CAPTAIN MERRILL.

WE RECEIVED FOUR NEW PILOTS DURING THE MONTH
AND ALL OF THEM HAVE BEEN CHECKED OUT. IN BETWEEN
MISSIONS WE PUT ON AN EXTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR
THE NEW PILOTS AND A REFRESHER FOR THE OLDER PILOTS.
IT CONSISTED OF SIMULATED DIVE BOMBING, STRAFING,
MUTUAL SUPPORT, CLOSE FORMATION AND ACROBATICS. THE
AVERAGE TIME FOR THE MONTH WAS 33 HOURS PER PILOT,
THEREBY KEEPING EVERYBODY IN FIGHTING TRIM. IT IS
HOPED THERE WILL BE A SUFFICIENCY OF PLANES TO PERMIT
THAT CONDITION TO CONTINUE.

[REDACTED]

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4. ENGINEERING:

THE SECTION RECEIVED TWELVE NEW AIRPLANES FROM QUAM WHICH HELPED TO PARTIALLY COMPENSATE FOR THE LOSSES SUFFERED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MONTH. THESE NEW PLANES WERE EQUIPPED WITH ROCKET RACK, AND MOST OF OUR MISSIONS HAVE BEEN WITH ROCKETS AND 165 GALLON WING TANKS.

IT IS STILL BELIEVED THAT THE NUMBER OF PLANES ON HAND ARE INADEQUATE FOR THE STEADY DEMANDS MADE UPON THEM.

AMONG THE PERSONNEL, S.SGT BAGWELL WENT HOME ON EMERGENCY FURLOUGH, WHILE OUR SECTION HEAD T.SGT HAROLD BLATTNER WAS REWARDED WITH A PROMOTION TO M.SGT, AND S.SGT RISE AND CARPENTER WERE MOVED UP TO TECH.

5. SUPPLY:

LT PENA HAS TAKEN LT PRICE'S PLACE AS SUPPLY OFFICER WHILE LT PRICE IS ON DS TO GROUP. SGT SHERWOOD, LT PRICE'S SPECIAL CLERK RETURNED TO THE MAINLAND LEAVING HIS DUTIES AS SPECIAL CLERK TO SGT ARNOLD.

SALVAGE, SHOE REPAIR, AND QUARTERMASTER LAUNDRY SERVICES ARE PROCEEDING FAIRLY SATISFACTORY, THOUGH THERE IS STILL DELAY IN OBTAINING NECESSARY ITEMS.

PERSONNEL SUPPLY HAS FINALLY RECEIVED A LIMITED SUPPLY OF THE NEW WDAGO FORM #32, DATED 8 MAY 1944. THIS

[REDACTED]

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NEW CONSOLIDATED FORM HAS BEEN ON REQUISITION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. UPON RECEIPT OF THE NEW FORM #52, THE OLD FORM DATED 16 JUNE 1941 WILL NOT BE USED. AT PRESENT WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY HALF OF THE FORM #52'S NEEDED. IT IS HOPED THAT THE REMAINING NUMBER OF FORMS NEEDED ARRIVES SOON.

6. ARMAMENT:

THIS MONTH THE ARMAMENT SECTION HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO APPRAISE THE NEW K-14, A GUN SIGHT. THE OPINION OF THE MEN IS THAT IT IS THE BEST SIGHT THEY HAVE EVER WORKED WITH EVEN THOUGH IT REQUIRES MORE MAINTENANCE THAN ITS PREDECESSOR. WHILE THE SECTION WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO DO ANY MAINTENANCE IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIGHT, SINCE THERE WERE NEITHER SPARE PARTS NOR EXPERIENCED MEN ON THE ISLAND, IT WAS A CASE OF MAKE THE BEST OF IT. "THE BEST" HAS TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY GOOD AND SPEAKS HIGHLY FOR THE NATURAL MECHANICAL APTITUDE OF OUR MEN.

REGULAR RUNNING OF ROCKET MISSIONS BROUGHT TO LIGHT A FEW MALFUNCTIONS IN THE ROCKET INSTALLATIONS AND EQUIPMENT. THE PLATES WERE BULGING FROM THE WEIGHT OF THE ROCKETS AND WE WERE UNABLE TO CORRECT THIS IN ANY WAY THUS FAR. PARTS OF THE REAR MOUNT WERE BROKEN WHEN THE ROCKETS WERE FIRED. SINCE NO SPARE PARTS WERE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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AVAILABLE, "HOME-MADE" REPAIR OF BROKEN PARTS WAS EFFECTED.

MEN FOUND THE GENERAL SUBSTITUTION OF ROCKETS
FOR BOMBS PREFERABLE IN THAT THEY WERE RELIEVED OF THE
BACK-BREAKING TASK OF HANGING THE BOMBS.

THREE MEMBERS OF THIS SECTION WERE LUCKY ENOUGH
TO BE IN THE STATES WHEN VE DAY WAS ANNOUNCED. THEIR
FORTUNATELY-TIMED FURLOUGH PLUS THEIR LARGE NUMBER OF
POINTS HAS RESULTED IN THEIR DIVORCE FROM THE SQUADRON.

7. ORDNANCE:

THE ORDNANCE SECTION HAS COMPLETED A MONTH OF
ACCOMPLISHING ITS ASSIGNED TASK AND ACHIEVING GOOD RESULTS.
THE MEN HAVE BECOME PROFICIENT AFTER GETTING MUCH EXPER-
IENCE HANDLING THE ROCKETS.

DUTIES ARE ROUTINE AND NOTHING HAS TAKEN PLACE
OTHER THAN FULFILLING THE TASKS OF THE MISSIONS.

CAPTAIN MAX L. MARSAHL LEFT FOR THE MAINLAND
THIS MONTH ON A WELL EARNED 45 DAY FURLOUGH. LT GRILES,
A PILOT, HAS REPLACED HIM AS ORDNANCE OFFICER.

8. PHOTO LAB:

OUR PAST POLICY OF PROCESSING 16MM GSAP FILM
TO A NEGATIVE FORM WAS CHANGED THIS MONTH. WE ARE NOW

[REDACTED]

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DOING A REVERSAL PROCESS BY THE USE OF A D-3 DEVELOPER. WE
ARE ENCOUNTERING MANY PROBLEMS WHICH ARE GRADUALLY BEING
OVERCOME. OUR BIGGEST PROBLEM TO DATE IS THE LACK OF
BEING ABLE TO KEEP OUR SOLUTION AND WATER AT A WORKING
TEMPERATURE OF ABOUT 70 DEGREES. SINCE LOSING OUR
ELECTRIC ICE BOX IN TRANSIT, WE HAVE NO WAY OF KEEPING
OUR WATER COOL. ALTHOUGH WE ARE TRYING TO PROMOTE A
SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF ICE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

WE HAVE ALSO FOUND THAT USING A CHROME ALUM
HARDENER AS A STOP BATH BETWEEN THE FIRST DEVELOPMENT
AND BLEACH ON OUR 16MM WORK, HAS A BAD EFFECT ON THE
FINISHED FILM. WE BELIEVE THIS IS DUE TO A CHEMICAL
ACTION OF SOME SORT BUT HAVE NOT ISOLATED IT.

AN EPIDEMIC OF JAMMING INCIDENTS HAS COMPELLED
US TO RETURN TO SUPPLY ABOUT 100 MAGAZINES, EMULSION #
255107. THIS TYPE IS A RELOADED MAGAZINE AND THE TROUBLE
HAS BEEN CAUSED BY THE OLD TYPE LOADING AND BY THE FILM
STICKING TOGETHER ON THE SPOOL PREVENTING MOVEMENT.

S/SGT HORVATH HAS LEFT ON FURLOUGH AND SGT ALVIN
IS ACTING AS SECTION CHIEF IN HIS ABSENCE.

9. COMMUNICATIONS:

THE SECTION SETTLED INTO ROUTINE ACTIVITIES THIS

[REDACTED]

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MONTH. LIGHTS WERE INSTALLED IN THE NEW MESS HALL. A
NEW MESSAGE CENTER SHACK WAS CONSTRUCTED AND WORK WAS
STARTED ON A NEW COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE SINCE IT WAS
FOUND THAT THE HEAT MADE THE DUG-IN 399 OFFICE UNBEARABLE.
A LOUDSPEAKER SYSTEM WAS INSTALLED IN THE MESS HALL.
CHANNEL REFERENCE SLIPS WERE CHANGED IN ALL SHIPS. AFTER
THE TROPICAL STORM WHICH BLEW DOWN THE CP, EQUIPMENT WAS
MOVED FROM THERE. NONE OF THE EQUIPMENT SUSTAINED DAMAGE
EXCEPT THE FM ANTENNA. ONE OTHER ITEM OF DAMAGE WAS
BROUGHT ABOUT WHEN AN IFF SET DETONATED AFTER A ROUGH
LANDING. THE SET WAS TURNED INTO THE 386TH SERVICE
GROUP. THE SETS ISSUED BY THIS GROUP IN RETURN FOR SETS
THAT ARE BROUGHT IN FOR REPAIR HAVE BEEN FOUND MOSTLY
UNSATISFACTORY. WE RECEIVE BACK OLD AND WORN SETS.

OUR RE-95 IS STILL AT THE SIGNAL DEPOT FOR REPAIRS
AND WE ARE DRAWING OUR POWER AS BEFORE FROM THE 145TH
FIGHTER SQUADRON TO SERVICE OUR LINE.

SGT JACKSON AND PFC MCCUTCHEON WERE PLACED ON DS
WITH VII FIGHTER COMMAND. LT HUBBUCH WAS RE-ASSIGNED
WHILE BACK IN THE STATES AND LT BARBERA TOOK OVER AS
OUR NEW COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER. S.SGT FLAHERTY LEFT ON
FURLOUGH. S.SGT GEBAUER HELPED OUT THE ORDERLY ROOM
BY ACTING AS TYPIST FOR THEM FOR A WEEK. CPL LONDON

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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AND PFC COOKSEY WERE ASSIGNED AS GENERATOR MEN.

10. MEDICS:

BY MEANS OF THE GROUP MEDICAL SECTION, PILOTS MAY NOW HAVE A HOT TUB BATH AND A RUBDOWN FOLLOWING THEIR RETURN FROM LONG RANGE MISSIONS. THE PILOTS' PRAISE OF THE COMFORT AFFORDED BY SUCH TREATMENT ARE APPRECIATED BY THE SECTION'S ENLISTED MEN WHO EXPEND SO MUCH PHYSICAL EFFORT IN THE HOT BATH HOUSE.

THE GENERAL HEALTH OF THE COMMAND HAS BEEN SATISFACTORY ALTHOUGH THE HEAT AND HUMIDITY OF TWO JIMA IS BEGINNING TO EXPRESS ITSELF IN A MODERATE INCREASE IN SUCH SKIN DISEASES AS RINGWORM INFECTIONS AND HEAT RASHES.

11. TRANSPORTATION:

ONE OF OUR JEEPS WHICH WAS LOANED TO THE GROUP HEADQUARTERS WAS RETURNED TO THE SECTION, AND A THREE QUARTER TON WEAPONS CARRIER WAS LOANED TO THEM INSTEAD.

THE SPARE PARTS SITUATION REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME AS LAST MONTH, SMALL ITEMS SUCH AS GASKETS, SPEEDOMETER CABLES, AND FUEL PUMP DIAPHRAGMS, ARE STILL UNAVAILABLE. IT HAS BEEN STATED HOWEVER, THAT THE REASONS FOR THE SCARCITY OF THESE SMALL PARTS IS THAT THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF THE MATERIALS THESE ITEMS ARE MADE OF. OTHER ITEMS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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NOT USUALLY ON HAND AT OUR SUPPLYING AGENCY ARE SHOP
ITEMS SUCH AS PAINTS OF ALL TYPES, PRESERVING MATERIALS,
AND SHOP TOOLS. HERE AGAIN LACK OF MATERIALS OF THIS
NATURE IS POSSIBLE DUE TO THE SCARCITY.

LATE THIS MONTH WE STARTED TO RECONDITION ALL
OF OUR VEHICLES; SO FAR WE HAVE ABOUT ONE SEVENTH OF
THEM DONE.

THE MOTOR POOL AREA ITSELF HAS HAD TWO CHANGES.
THE BUILDING WHICH FORMERLY SERVED AS A KITCHEN NOW
HOUSES THE SECTION'S OFFICE, SERVES AS QUARTERS FOR THE
SECTION'S TWO CLERKS, AND HAS THE SPECIAL SERVICE EQUIP-
MENT STORED IN IT, THE OTHER CHANGE BEING THAT ABOUT ONE
THIRD OF THE PARKING AND WORKING AREA HAS BEEN RESURFACED
WITH A HARD, YELLOW CLAY.

OUR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY THIS MONTH WAS TO
PAINT THE NEW MESS HALL AND A LARGE WATER TANK. THE
PAINTING WAS DONE BY S. SGT RICHARDSON, SGTs MAINES AND
SCHWESKE, CPLs VESPO AND CHOUINARD, AND PFC SCLAFANI.

IN THE WAY OF PERSONNEL CHANGES, PFC MUDZIK WAS
TRANSFERRED TO THE ENGINEERING SECTION, AND CPL LEVESQUE
IS ON TEMPORARY DUTY WITH THE SAME SECTION.

12. INTELLIGENCE:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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"IT'S ON, IT'S OFF", WAS THE SLOGAN FOR JUNE AS MISSION AFTER MISSION WAS POSTPONED FROM DAY TO DAY BECAUSE OF WEATHER CONDITIONS OR WAS CHANGED FROM STRIKE TO ESCORT TO STRIKE AS CHANGING CONDITIONS DICTATED. SUCH ELASTICITY OF MISSION KEPT THE S-2 SECTION HOPPING ALONG WITH THE REST. THERE WERE INNUMERABLE BRIEFINGS AND PREPARATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND MAPS. THERE WERE THE EXCURSIONS TO THE CLAIMS BOARD WHERE THE SQUADRON FARED REMARKABLY WELL, SUSTAINING THE GREAT MAJORITY OF ITS CLAIMS. THERE WAS THE PREPARATION OF EXCERPTS AND STATISTICS FOR PILOT AWARDS. THERE WERE THE WORLD NEWSMAPS AND BULLETINS TO BE KEPT UP TO DATE.

AMAZING AS IT MAY SEEM, THE OFFICE WAS ABLE TO CONCEIVE AND EXECUTE TWO MAJOR PROJECTS IN BETWEEN THIS MAELSTROM OF ACTIVITY.

FIRST WAS A REBUILDING OF ITS OFFICE WHICH WAS PROVING TOO HOT AND UNCOMFORTABLE TO WITHSTAND THE TWO JUNE SUN. A FOUNDATION WAS BUILT FOR THE TENT ROOF AND THE CENTER POLE REMOVED. A BOARD FOUNDATION WAS BUILT FOR THE SIDES OF THE FOUNDATION SO THAT WHEN THE SIDES OF THE TENT WERE ROLLED UP, THE SHACK WAS SWEEPED WITH BREEZE. THE WORKING DESKS, CONVENIENTLY SURROUNDED BY SHELVES AND A FIELD DESK AND FILES AND LOCATED IN THE REAR OF THE SHACK,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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WERE PARTITIONED OFF FROM THE FRONT WHERE BENCHES HAD BEEN BUILT FOR PILOTS WHO COULD BROWSE AMONG THE POOP FILED ON AN ADJACENT SHELF. THE COOLNESS AND COMFORT OF THE SHACK DREW PRAISE FROM THE OTHER SECTIONS AND MANY OF THE PERSONNEL DROPPED IN TO BAT AND COLLECT THE BREEZE. LT MICHAELIDES PERSONALLY PARTICIPATED IN THE CONSTRUCTION WORK, BEING ABLY ASSISTED BY S.SGT MCGANN AND S.SGT ROSNER.

SECOND PROJECT CONCERNED THE COMPULSORY INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM. IT WAS FELT THAT COMPELLING ATTENDANCE AT A STRAIGHT DRY LECTURE ON SOME CONTROVERSIAL SUBJECT WOULD DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD. A PROGRAM WAS MAPPED OUT WHEREBY THE ELEMENTARY INFORMATION WOULD BE SUGAR-COATED, PEPPED UP, AND DELIVERED IN A LESS FORMAL, MORE INTERESTING FASHION. ON JUNE 8TH THE FIRST OF THESE PROGRAMS TOOK PLACE. IT WAS CALLED "INFORMATION PUHLEEZ" ON A SPECIAL PLACARD ADVERTISING ITS APPROACH. A QUARTET OF GUEST INTERROGEEES WAS COMPOSED OF MAJOR TAPP, COMMANDING OFFICER, CAPTAIN FITZSIMMONS, OPERATIONS OFFICER, LT CARR, COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, AND LT MONTGOMERY. AFTER A SERIES OF PREPARED QUESTIONS HAD BEEN PUT TO THE GUESTS BY S.SGT AMMERMAN, INTERROGATOR, ENLISTED MEN THREW QUESTIONS FROM THE AUDIENCE. THE SUBJECT CONCERNED FLYING TACTICS, THE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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THE SQUADRON MISSIONS, THE PILOTS' PERSONAL REACTIONS,
AND THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE ENLISTED MENS SERVICES.

IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT THIS PROGRAM HAD DONE
MUCH TO ENGENDER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OFFICERS AND EN-
LISTED MEN, AND CAPTAIN FITZSIMMONS, ACTING CO, HAS RE-
QUESTED THAT A PROGRAM OF SIMILAR NATURE BE RUN EVERY
FOUR WEEKS.

ON JUNE 15TH LT MCNALLY, COMBAT INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER OF A NAVY WING WHICH HAD AIRCRAFT SQUADRONS
BASED ON IWO JIMA, ANSWERED QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE
"PRIVATEERS" AND TOLD OF THEIR MISSION AND THEIR EXPER-
IENCES. HE WAS WELL RECEIVED AND GAVE THE AUDIENCE A
GLIMPSE OF AN ACTIVITY CLOSELY RELATED TO THEIR OWN,
BUT, PREVIOUSLY UNFAMILIAR TO THEM.

THIS WAS FOLLOWED ON THE 23D BY A SESSION
WITH LT M. GOLDBERG OF AGF G-2, TEAM COMMANDER OF A UNIT
CONCERNED WITH THE CAPTURE AND INTERROGATION OF JAP
PRISONERS, WHO RELATED THE TECHNIQUE OF SURRENDER PER-
SUASIONS. ON JUNE 29TH, CAPTAIN FITZSIMMONS RETURNED
TO THE MIKE WITH CAPTAIN DELAHUNTY, SQUADRON ADJUTANT,
TO FACE A BARRAGE OF QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE ENLISTED
MEN'S PERSONAL PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THEIR RELATIONSHIP
TO THE SQUADRON. FROM THIS MEETING A NUMBER OF USEFUL
SUGGESTIONS ACCRUED WHICH WILL BE PUT INTO PRACTICE SOON.

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EXHIBIT A

MISSIONS FLOWN BY THE 78TH FIGHTER SQUADRON DURING
JUNE, 1945.

SQ MISSION #6-1, 1 JUNE 1945, 20 P-51'S DISPATCHED ON
VLR FIGHTER ESCORT OF B-29'S OVER OSAKA. FOUR PLANES
COMPLETED THE MISSION. TWO PLANES WERE LOST IN WEATHER
375 MILES FROM BASE. 14 PLANES ABORTED.

SQ MISSION #6-2, 4 JUNE 1945, 4 P-51'S ROCKET AND STRAFING
ATTACK AGAINST PRIORITY TARGETS AND RADIO STATION #7 ON
CHICHI JIMA. SIX HITS IN THE TARGET AREA. RECCO RUN MADE
ON HANA JIMA WITH NEGATIVE RESULT.

SQ MISSION #6-3, 5 JUNE 1945, 5 P-51'S ROCKET AND STRAFING
ATTACK AGAINST JAP APD NORTH OF CHICHI JIMA. FOUR TO FIVE
COORDINATED ATTACKS MADE FROM ALL DIRECTIONS. TOTAL OF
SEVEN HITS OBSERVED WHICH LEFT THE APD TRAILING OIL, BUT
UNDER ITS OWN POWER HEADING SE. AA FROM APD INTENSE AND
INACCURATE.

SQ MISSION #6-4, 7 JUNE 1945, 15 P-51'S ON VLR FIGHTER
ESCORT OF B-29'S OVER OSAKA. NO ENEMY A/C ENCOUNTERED.
WEATHER OVER TARGET 10/10 TO 12,000 FEET.

SQ MISSION #6-5, 7 JUNE 1945, 3 P-51'S. CONTROL ORDERED
INTERCEPTION TO NORTH OF TWO. NEGATIVE OBSERVATIONS.
ORDERED TO PANDAKE.

SQ MISSION #6-6, 8 JUNE 1945, 15 P-51'S, VLR FIGHTER
STRIKE TO KAGAMICAHARA A/F, HONSHU. FRONT ENCOUNTERED
60 MILES NORTH OF KWO JIMA UP TO 30,000 FEET FORCING PLANES
TO RETURN.

SQ MISSION #6-7, 8 JUNE 1945, 1 P-51'S, CONTROL ORDERED
INTERCEPTION. BOGEYS FOUND FRIENDLY 40 MILES NE OF TWO.

SQ MISSION #6-8, 10 JUNE 1945, 18 P-51'S, VLR FIGHTER
SWEEP OVER TOKYO AREA, HONSHU. TOTAL OF 27 JAP FIGHTERS
SIGHTED. SQUADRON DESTROYED 1 AND 1/2, PROBABLY DESTROY-
ED TWO, AND DAMAGED FOUR. JAP FIGHTERS EXTREMELY AGGRESSIVE.
NO LOSS TO OUR SQUADRON.

SQ MISSION #6-9, 9 JUNE 1945, 4 P-51'S, CONTROL ORDERED
SEARCH FOR EMERGENCY IFF SIGNAL 270 DEGREES FROM HOT
ROCKS. 20 MILES OUT, 315 DEGREES FROM HOT ROCKS P-51
OBSERVED TO CRASH IN OCEAN. PILOT BAILED OUT. FLIGHT
ORBITTED UNTIL SURFACE VESSEL RESCUED PILOT.

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SQ MISSION #6-10, 13 JUNE 1945, 10 P-51'S DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED STORAGE AREA IN TA 214 P ON CHICHI JIMA. 16 GP 500 LB BOMBS WERE DROPPED. RESULTS UNOBSERVED. JOSEPHINE AND ESCORT ACCOMPANIED STRIKE.

SQ MISSION #6-11, 14 JUNE 1945, 3 P-51'S SEARCH FOR P-51 AND PILOT. SEARCHED AREA FROM HOT ROCKS TO PT KING WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

SQ MISSION #6-12, 14 JUNE 1945, 8 P-51'S, SEARCHED FOR PILOT OF 47TH FIGHTER SQUADRON LOOKING FROM EAST TO WEST SOUTH OF HOT ROCKS TO 15 MILES OUT. NEGATIVE RESULTS.

SQ MISSION #6-13, 14 JUNE 1945, 4 P-51'S, SEARCH FOR PILOT 47TH FIGHTER SQUADRON FROM HOT ROCKS TO 20 MILES OUT TO SOUTH WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

SQ MISSION #6-14, 15 JUNE 1945, 19 P-51'S, VLR FIGHTER ESCORT OF B-29'S OVER OSAKA. FORMATION FORCED TO RETURN BECAUSE OF WEATHER FRONT 375 MILES FROM BASE WITH TOPS TO 30,000 FEET. CAPT FITZSIMMONS SUCCESSFULLY DITCHED P-51 ONE MILE SW OF HOT ROCKS WITH SLIGHT NOSE LACERATION.

SQ MISSION #6-15, 19 JUNE 1945, 20 P-51'S, VLR FIGHTER STRIKE TO KAGAMIGAHARA A/F, HONSHU. WEATHER FRONT ENCOUNTERED 200 MILES NORTH OF IWO JIMA WITH TOPS UP TO 2900 FEET FORCING FORMATION TO RETURN.

SQ MISSION #6-16, 23 JUNE 1945, 18 P-51'S, VLR FIGHTER STRIKE AGAINST SHIMODATE A/F, HONSHU. SEVEN PLANES CARRIED ROCKETS. HANGAR AREA AT NE CORNER OF SHIMODATE A/F HEAVILY DAMAGED AND LEFT SMOKING AND BURNING. THREE JAP PLANES DESTROYED ON GROUND, ONE PROBABLY DESTROYED, AND TWO DAMAGED. NO LOSS TO THE SQUADRON.

SQ MISSION #6-17, 24 JUNE 1945, 6 P-51'S DIVE BOMBED AND STRAFED SUSAKI A/F ON CHICHI JIMA. 8 GP 500 LB BOMBS WERE DROPPED ON SUSAKI A/F. JOSEPHINE AND ESCORT ACCOMPANIED STRIKE.

SQ MISSION #6-18, 25 JUNE 1945, 4 P-51'S, CONTROL ORDERED INTERCEPTION. VECTORED 320 DEGREES 40 MILES OUT. NEGATIVE RESULTS.

[REDACTED]

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SQ MISSION #6-19, 25 JUNE 1945, 14 P-51'S, CONTROL ORDERED
INTERCEPTION. PATROLLED WEST TO NORTH TO EAST OF HOT
ROCKS AT 10,000 FEET. INVESTIGATED SURFACE VESSEL 10
MILES WEST OF KITA. SHIP FRIENDLY. ORDERED TO PANCAKE.

SQ MISSION #6-20, 26 JUNE 1945, 15 P-51'S, VLR ESCORT OF
B-29'S OVER NAGOYA. SIX JAP FIGHTERS SIGHTED BUT NO
ENCOUNTERS TOOK PLACE. PATROLLED BOMBER STREAM WITHOUT
INCIDENT.

SQ MISSION #6-21, 27 JUNE 1945, 19 P-51'S, VLR FIGHTER
STRIKE TO KASUMIGAWA AND KASHIMA A/F'S, HONSHU. WEATHER
FRONT ENCOUNTERED 175 MILES FROM BASE. FORMATION THEN
FIRED ROCKETS AND STRAFED TORI SHIMA. SIGHTED TWO IN-
OPERATIONAL 75 FOOT LANDING BARGES AND ONE TEN FOOT BARGE
ALONG THE BEACHES.

SQ MISSION #6-22, 29 JUNE 1945, VLR FIGHTER RECONNAISSANCE
AND STRAFING OF CHICHI JIMA. 75 FOOT WOODEN LUGGER
STRAFED. SIX TO EIGHT SMALL BOATS SEEN ALONG NORTHERN
SHORES OF FUTABA KO. A/F IN OPERATIONAL. ONE 150 FOOT
SHIP IN DAMAGED CONDITION OBSERVED ALONG THE PIER IN TA
263-X.

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EXHIBIT B

RESULTS OF MISSIONS FLOWN DURING JUNE, 1945

MISSION OF 5 JUNE 1945 IN THE VICINITY OF CHICHI JIMA
ONE JAP APCD HEAVILY DAMAGED.

MISSION OF 10 JUNE 1945, VLR FIGHTER STRIKE OVER TOKYO AREA

- ✓ ONE OSCAR DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY CAPT MERRILL
- ✓ ONE HAMP DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY LT BAUMAN
- ✓ ONE HALF HAMP DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY LT SEDAM
- ✓ TWO ZEKES DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY LT BROOKS
- ✓ ONE GEORGE PROBABLY DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY LT MARTIN
- ✓ ONE OSCAR PROBABLY DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY CAPT MERRILL
AND LT HAWKINS
- ✓ ONE OSCAR DAMAGED IN THE AIR BY CAPT MERRILL
- ONE OSCAR DAMAGED IN THE AIR BY CAPT MERRILL AND LT
HAWKINS
- ONE OSCAR DAMAGED IN THE AIR BY LT SEDAM
- ONE GEORGE DAMAGED IN THE AIR BY LT BROOKS

MISSION OF 23 JUNE 1945, VLR STRIKE SHIMODATE A/F, HONSHU.

- ONE ZEKE PROBABLY DESTROYED IN THE AIR BY LT MAHER
- ONE FRANK DESTROYED ON THE GROUND BY LT MONTGOMERY
- ONE FRANK DESTROYED ON THE GROUND BY LT BROOKS
- ONE FRANK DESTROYED ON THE GROUND BY LT KILLION
- ONE FRANK PROBABLY DESTROYED ON THE GROUND BY LT
MOORE AND LT COLLIE
- ONE JILL DAMAGED ON THE GROUND BY CAPT MERRILL
- ONE FRANK DAMAGED ON THE GROUND BY LT FAHEY
- HANGAR AREA IN THE NE CORNER OF SHIMODATE A/F HEAVILY
DAMAGED BY ROCKET HITS.