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30 APR 44

HISTORICAL SECTION
SEVENTH AIR FORCE

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Organizational History, 19th Fighter Squadron, VII Fighter Command,
Seventh Air Force.

April 1, 1944 - April 30, 1944

1. Organization:

Negative.

2. Strength:

51 Officers
272 Enlisted Men

3. Date of arrival and departure from each station occupied in this theater:

April 18, 1944 arrived Bellows Field, T. H. Left Kualoa Field, T. H., 1030 by air and motor convoy. Distance traveled approximately 20 miles.

4. Losses:

Negative:

5. Awards and Decorations:

Negative.

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RESTRICTED**SECRET**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO #951. (CONT'D)

Narrative History of the 19th Fighter Squadron for the month of April, 1944:

During the month of April the Squadron received its full complement of P-47 aircraft, a total of thirty-seven (37) ships. Many of these ships were returned to the Air Depot at Hickam Field for modification. Jettisonable canopies were installed on all ships and rocket tubes were fitted on eighteen of the aircraft. The rocket tubes are fitted under each wing in a cluster of three. The tubes are jettisonable, and can be fired singly or salvoed.

On April 18, 1944 the Squadron moved from Kualoa Field, T. H., to Bellows Field, T. H., a distance of approximately 20 miles. The move was made by truck convoy and by air without incident. Immediately after the ships landed at Bellows Field the pilots were assembled for a meeting with the 318th Group Commanding Officer, Lt. Col. L. M. Sanders. Col. Sanders informed the pilots that the 19th Fighter Squadron and the 73rd Fighter Squadron would be leaving in the near future for the combat area. He went on to discuss the nature of their operations and what they could expect to encounter.

During the remainder of the month the Squadron continued to fly Gunnery, Dive-bombing, and Rocket missions. The pilots also studied Japanese tactics, aircraft and weapons. There were numerous pilot meetings in which tactics and techniques were discussed, both ours and Japanese.

Each pilot has been assigned his own aircraft, and with the help of the crew chiefs have started to remove the paint from the engine cowling, vertical stabilizer, and horizontal stabilizer. About half of the ships now have the paint removed. The pilots have taken a keen interest in their ships and are spending most of their time, when not flying, working on their planes getting them in shape. After the work is completed each aircraft in the Squadron will have silver nose and tail surfaces and will probably bear a name.

The morale of the entire organization is superior. Everyone is very keen about going into to combat.

The Squadron is being stripped of excess and unnecessary equipment, and is leveling off for combat operations.

Enlisted personnel who are overage are now being transferred into other squadrons. Most of them would rather stay with the organization and go into combat.

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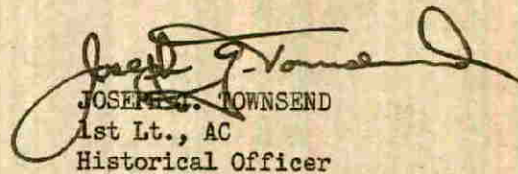
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S E C R E TORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY, 19TH FIGHTER SQUADRON, AAF, APO #951. (CONT'D)

Narrative History of the 19th Fighter Squadron for the month of April, 1944: (cont'd)

By the end of the month each and every member of the organization was busily engaged in getting the outfit ready for the trip "down under". The Commanding Officer issued orders that there would only be one week of flying in May. During that week flying would start at 0545 and end at 1600 each day. After that only test-hops would be made and by the middle of May the Squadron would be ready for combat.


JOSEPH. TOWNSEND
1st Lt., AC
Historical Officer

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