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1 JULY 1944

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REPT OF THE 6TH NIGHT FIGHTER SQUADRON
SEVENTH AIR FORCE

Organizational History, 6th. Night Fighter Squadron,
VII Fighter Command, Seventh Air Force.

1 July 1944 - 31 July 1944.

1. Organization:

Negative.

2. Strength:

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

33 Officers
181 Enlisted men (1 attached from 544th A.B. Sqdn. APO #953.)

With Squadron detachment at Saipan:

21 Officers
97 Enlisted men.

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

26 July nine Officers and three Flight Officers (Radar Observers) were assigned to the squadron for flight training as P-61 replacement crews.

30 July 3 Officers, 3 Flight Officers and 3 enlisted men left for duty at squadron detachment in Saipan.

Throughout the month the squadron personnel was increased by 6 Officers and 20 enlisted men.

4. Losses.

Negative.

5. Awards and Decorations:

P.R.C.

21 July 1944 award of AIR MEDAL to the following Officers:

1ST FRANCIS C. EATON 0677687
2D LT JEROME M. HANSON 0746099
2D LT WILLIAM K. WALLACE 02054073

2D LT DALE F. HABERMAN 0748971
2D LT JAMES E. KETCHUM 02054068
FLT O. RAYMOND P. MOONEY T192675

(see attached exhibit 21.)

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History of the 6th Night Fighter Squadron.

On July 8th. Lieut. Robert H. Beyl and our line chief M/Sgt. N.J. Brooks returned from detached service with the 19th fighter squadron with whom they went aboard a n Air-craft Carrier to deliver P-47 "Thunderbolt" fighter airplanes to Saipan.

Lieut. Ernest R. Thomas, Pilot, and Lt. John P. Acre, his observer, left by transport to our squadron detachment at Saipan. The transfer took effect on July 10th.

On July 30th the third detachment composed of 3 P-61s was airborne en-route to Saipan as re-enforcements to our squadron detachment. The personnel were: Pilots Lts. Charles Baer, D.T. Evans and R. L. Ferguson. The observers were Lt. O.L. Gasda, F/O M.R. DeVita and F/O J.M. Delaquila. Included alsowere S/Sgt. Plummer, S/Sgt. Nesselrode and Pvt. Standish.

The 9th Radar Calibration Detachment, AAF, is still attached to our squadron.

1 July, Cpl. L. Basilotta transfered from Tripler Hospital to duty.
 5 July, Cpl. J. Miranda transfered from duty to Tripler Gen. Hospital.
 7 July, Sgt. Kosakowsky, Cpl. Terlacher and Pvt. Kunkel from D.S. VII A.F. Com. Training Center to duty.
 7 July, Pfc. H.L. Boebel, Tec. 5 J.C. Melvin, Tec. 5 L.C. Kerr, Pfc. L.E. Baker, Tec 5 B. Siegman and Tec. 5 H.B. Swartz transfered into the squadron from 580th and 561st Signal A.W. Btn.
 8 July, Lieut. R.H. Beyl and M/S Brooks from D.S. 19th fighter Sqdn. AAF to duty.
 15 July, Cpl. J. Miranda, from Tripler Gen. Hospital to duty.
 16 July, eleven enlisted (unsigned) men from replacement depot, were assigned to the squadron.
 18 July, Sgt. Zahoryin from 147th Gen. Hospital to duty.
 20 July, S/Sgt Cokley, Cpl. F.J. Gilio and Cpl. L. M. Roth (unsigned) from replacement depot, ere assigned to aquadron.
 21 July, Sgt. Kosakowsky from duty to Tripler Gen. Hospital.
 24 July, S/Sgt. Loranger from duty to D. S. 13th Repl. depot for furlough.
 26 July, Lt. K. Fort from 78th Ftr. Sqdn. (D.S.) to duty.
 27 July, S/Sgt. M.C. Oliphant transfered to AAF Instructors School, Byrans Field, Texas.
 28 July, S/Sgt. L. Schwartz from duty to D.S. 13th. Replacement depot for furlough.
 29 July, Sgt. Kosakowsky from Tripler Gen. Hosp. to duty.
 30 July, Pvt. Coulter transfered to 42nd Bomb. Squadron.
 30 July Cpl. B.J. Morganstern transfered from Hq. & Hq. Sqd n. VII Air Force to squadron.

In our pilot's ready room is on display a huge Japanese flag which was sent by the detachment at Saipan. It is autographed by Major Mahr, detachment C.O. and the other Officers.

Operations:

Flying was, aside from the two accidents, routing. There were three Searchlight Missions in which our aircraft participated, and about the usual number of such missions as Aerial Gunnery, Ground Gunnery, Acrobatics, Individual Combat, Instrument, Interception and Army-Navy Manoeuvres. Major Alford logged the most flying time for July with a total of 46 hours in the air. The Squadron total was 1027 missions timed at 566:40.

Lt. James Crumley became a new Assistant Operations Officer helping out Capt. G.W. Millholland and Lt. Robert T. Merrill, III.

This month began with characteristic 6th Squadron fervor when Lt. Baer made a forced landing at Kahuiri Field, on the 4th of July, thus giving the old holiday a little excitement. The right engine of Lt. Evans' P-70 cut-out, but he managed to bring the plane down with comparatively little damage.

On the 10th of the month, we said Aloha to Lt. Ernest Thomas, an old 6th Fighter P-70 and P-61 pilot, and his observer, Lt. John A cre. They went to Saipan to join their buddies who were sent 'down under' last month.

The following day, Lt. Kenneth Fort had a tangle with the ill winds. Shortly after taking off, he detected gas fumes in the cockpit, immediately pancaked, and just in time to watch flames spit from the motor of his P-47. The N.A.S. and Hicham Field Fire Departments arose to the occasion and doused the area thoroughly with water and chemicals.

On July 12th, a dozen new airmen came to the Squadron from the Mainland. The pilots are: 2nd Lts: Ashley Nagle, Herbert McGaffic, Wm. Kern, Jr., Albert Kelley, Wilfred Robbenmolt and Blois Merriam. The Observers are: 2nd Lts. R.N. Phillips, C.A. Ward, R.S. Koski, J.A. Sobol, W.H. Jennings and Flight Officer H.J. Brask.

On the 30th of the month, 3 pilots, 1st Lt. Charles M. Baer, 2nd Lts: Robert L. Ferguson and Donald T. Evans, with thier 3 observers, and 2nd Lts: Nicholas DeVita, Quentin Reynolds and Flight Officer Jean DeLaquilla, flew to Saipan in their new P-61s. On the same day, that loss was partially compensated by the arrival of 2 new pilots, 2nd Lts: Arman Tremblay and Jacob Thorson, with their observers, 2nd Lts: J.J. Liston and E. Mankins.

Throughout July, Operations burned the midnight oil over the S-3 paper work of the 9th Radar Calibration Detachment which is attached to the 6th Fighter Squadron. We all moaned a little over the extra work, but are still doing it.

Encouraging news was received from our pilots and observers detached at Saipan. Two or three of the lads shot down Japanese aircraft to get the "first blood" in the name of the 6th Fighter Squadron, and to prove that they were better at aerial gunnery than their records indicated. Bringing home to us the fact that they really are in combat, they sent us a large Jap flag. It is now hanging in our pilots' shack here at John Rodgers, a source of pride, particularly when visiting fliers are around.

Firing the carbine was a Squadron activity in the last days of July, and it proved not only to be fun, but somewhat surprising. Sgts. Marcus and Speer scored "Sharpshooter" ratings while Sgts. Klingeman, Mazzone and Hartley qualified as "Marksmen".

~~SECRET~~Engineering:

Squadron Engineering activity has been centered around the arrival and departure of another group of P-61s. Four ships were received this month (Two P-61A-5's and Two P-61A-10's) Three of these have already left as replacements for the 6th Night Fighter Sq. Detachment on Saipan. One while enroute, blew a cylinder and was forced down on Canton island. On the other remaining ship in the squadron here, the added reserve tank was removed and four fixed .50 caliber guns installed.

Social life for the past month which has been subdued due to the intensity of maintenance activity now gives promises of "blossoming out" into a fan-fare of well-deserved relaxation. A "blow out" is being planned for engineering personnel only at the Beach House. A committee inaugurated for accomplishment of the necessary details is progressing satisfactorily.

Thousand watt torches brightening the social columns blazed the return of M/Sgt. N.J. Brooks (Line Chief) from a thirty-three day sea journey aboard the aircraft carrier "Natoma Bay". Sgt. Brooks was delegated Line Chief of planes belonging to the 19th and 73rd Fighter Squadrons and directly supervised thirty-seven P-47's aboard the carrier. They were welcomed at Saipan (their destination) by Japanese aircraft which greeted them with a salvo of 4 bombs, missing the carrier by 25 yards on the port side.

Sgt. Brooks' performance and supervision was commended by Lt. Colonel Taylor, Commanding Officer, 318th Fighter Group.

Taking advantage of the opportunity provided by the recent authorization for overseas theatre commanders to appoint Officers from the ranks, M/Sgt. J. Trubilla, Acc't Engineering Officer of this section since the departure of the first contingent for Saipan, has submitted his qualifications for consideration as Engineering Officer. Up to this writing, Sgt. Trubilla has appeared before the CPA Board and is now waiting the results.

Outstanding in squadron personalities is Mr. D. Collins, Northrup Technical Representative, assigned here several months ago with the arrival of the Black Widows (P-61s). His technical ability has commandeered the confidence of all who have worked with him, and his proficiency in attaining parts, information, and in facilitation modifications and repairs has greatly added to the efficiency of this section. His subtle sense of humor and sincerity have placed him high in popularity.

A recent survey apropos to the subject of morale was recently conducted by this section regarding the frequency of pass days for personnel as compared with other departments of this squadron. As a result, an unequivocal conclusion revealed that of all sections, Engineering is allotted the least passes. This is not necessarily a reflection of discrimination however.

An average, computed over the past several months shows that the engineering man has one one-day pass every 20 days. An unbiased interview with this unit's personnel left a definite impression that the great majority of the men are handicapped by a conscientious sense of obligation preventing their availing themselves to more frequent passes.

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It must be remembered that in spite of the fact that two to three men are assigned to crew each ship, our operation as a night fighter squadron necessitates the availability of men for both day and night duty.

Since very little can be done to make frequent all day passes practical, it is suggested that the unit's personnel be allowed off-duty passes under the direct supervision of the Engineering Officer or the Line Chief. It is felt that a great boost to morale could be accomplished if the men were allowed an occasional evening pass or a few hours leave the day following night alert duty.

Armament Section:

The month of July was ushered in with quite a flurry of activity due to the arrival of five P-61's in this squadron. This section bore-sighted all ships and wired the same for Cal. 50 guns in the turreted position. The ships were test fired on the 20th and 21st of the month to check on malfunctions and stoppages.

As P-61 number 5599 was to remain in this squadron equipment necessary for the installation of four fixed cal. 50 guns were secured from H.A.D. and work commenced on the same, by this section. As is usual with all H.A.D. installations the fittings and prepared drawings were "SNAFU", but with the diligence and perseverance of our men the installation was completed in record time. This installation compensates measurably for the absence of the G.E. Electrical turret and renders the Black Widow a demon of fire-power jutting the sting of death and destruction to any alien foolhardy enough to enter its web.

On July 30th three P-61's were flown to our detachment at Saipan by Officers Baer, Evans, and Ferguson; Flight Officers Gasda, DeVita and DeLaquilla accompanied them.

A training film "Castaways" was shown at the mess hall and all available members of this section attended. This type of film is a great improvement over the stereotyped training film so prevalent at the beginning of this war. It has proved an important factor in more avid interest and learning. A lecture on the 20MM cannon was delivered by S/Sgt. Adams of the Ordnance section, on July 4th and the functioning and component parts were given to familiarize everyone concerned. Lt. Guild gave an excellent orientation lecture on Saipan and surrounding territory, on July 10th.

The first of big name entertainment introduced in the Pacific Area was featured at this field July 14th. Bob Hope, Jerry Cologna, Francis Langford, Pat Thomas and others put on an excellent performance.

Through the effort of Lt. Guild and with the cooperation of Major A. Alford this section gave a beach party in honor of S/Sgt. Adams who has been appointed a Warrant Officer. The entire armament ordnance section spent the day at the Officers Beach house enjoying swimming, dancing, drinking and eating to their hearts content. Girls had been invited and the entire day was spent in a most orderly fashion everyone participating in their favorite recreation. Brief photographers were present to snap candid shots and the outing will appear in Brief magazine in the near future. The party did a great deal towards bolstering the morale and it was suggested that such affairs be held at regular intervals in the future.

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Ordnance :

A training film and instruction was given to all men of this section on the MK 13 aerial torpedo. Current data was borrowed from the Navy Torpedo School at Ford Island.

A monthly pistol inspection was held for all officers and flight Officers. Weapons were in excellent shape.

Rifle and pistol range has been reserved for this squadron the 31 July 1944. All enlisted men and Officers will fire a qualification course with the weapon they are armed.

Photostats of a drawing on the Fuze, Rocket, P.D., M41A1, was forwarded through channels for instructional purposes to other squadrons.

First issue of the Ordnance Officer's Handbook was received the early part of this month. This is an excellent booklet and given the Ordnance Officer valuable information which he is able to disseminate to the personnel in the section. Eagerly looking forward to receiving further issues of this handbook.

A device to correct excessive side plate clearance has been made by this section. It is being tested and just as soon as it is proven to be satisfactory, more detailed information will be forwarded.

On P-61 type airplane received from N.A.D., it has been noticed that whoever is assembling the 20MM cannon is being very careless in putting back the "Operating Lever Assembly". There is an operating lever taper pin which prevents the guide from rotating and slipping. This pin is being lost during disassembly and assembly. Whoever did this work took a large size cotter pin and forced it with a hammer into the recess for the operating lever pin. This hammering has caused the thinnest part of the recess in the operating lever assembly to buckle and chip. Thus necessitating replacement with anew part before the gun is even fired. Caution and care in handling these guns should be impressed upon the parties at fault.

Communication section:

The following Historical report is submitted by the Communication section for the month of July 1944:

1. a Enlisted men (27)
b Officers (1)
2. Promotions:
a None
3. Radio Mechanics:
 - a. Installed D/F switches on 3 P-61's transferred to APO #244. Frequencies changed for task force on P-61's, P-61's, and UC-78, P47s and P-70s checked and cleaned all radios and plugs. The daily routine continuous throughout the month.

~~SECRET~~Medical Section:

There were no changes in Officers or Enlisted men assigned to this section.

Hospitalizations:

1. Sgt. Andrew J. Zahoryin discharged from 147th General Hospital as of 18 July 1944.
2. Cpl. Joseph D. Lydon discharged from Tripler General Hospital as of 1 August 1944.
3. Cpl. Joseph J. Miranda admitted to Tripler General Hospital as of 6 July 1944. Discharged from hospital as of 15 July 1944.
4. Pvt. Beryl R. Council admitted to Tripler General Hospital as of 31 July 1944. Pvt. Council, while on pass, was waylaid in the Damon Tract and was severely beaten and kicked by an unknown person or persons. He was found, unconscious, on K road at about 2200 and was taken to Tripler General Hospital. His injuries were diagnosed as possible fracture of the skull, possible fractured jaw and concussion of the brain. A later and more complete examination revealed that there were no fractures and his recovery should be rapid and complete.

Immunizations:

- 1 Immunizations were maintained at authorized levels for all personnel of the Squadron.
2. The six pilots and Observers transferred from Squadron to secret destination were given smallpox vaccinations, typhoid, tetanus, typhus and cholera immunizations prior to their departure.

Treatments:

- 1 There were 194 patients treated at the Dispensary.
- 2 There were 271 treatments given.
- 3 Inspections:

Routine physical inspections of all Enlisted men were held.

Jungle Packs of Pilots and Observers leaving Squadron for secret destination were equipped with medical supplies.

Sports and Recreation:

Medical Personnel have been going swimming at the Naval Air Station beach.

Remarks:

The morale of the Medical Section is generally good.

The Squadron's record of 100% freedom from venereal diseases was maintained.

There are no cases of communicable disease in the Squadron.

~~SECRET~~Parachute Section:

The first half of the month was rather quiet. Nothing out of the ordinary routine can be noted.

The second half found this department busy with the work of fitting 12 new flying personnel with parachutes. Six Officers and three enlisted men left the squadron with a parachute, raft, and jungle kit each.

Moral is maintained by passes, beer garden, day room, and shows. Swimming at the Post Beach in the afternoons plays an especially important part, for it not only helps the departments moral but gives badly needed exercise.

Special Service Report:

During the month of July 1944 the main feature of interest continued to be the Seventh Air Force baseball games. There were two official squadron trips to Honolulu stadium on July 16 and 30th for which reserved tickets were made available thru the special Service Officer. Several other baseball games were attended by enthusiasts during the month at Hickam Field.

The Bob Hope show was the high spot in stage entertainment about the middle of July. The show was held at the 19th Troop carrier squadron Area and was attended by several thousand soldiers, sailors, seabees, and Marines. Such stars as Hope, Frances Langford, Jerry Colonna, Tony Romero and others gave a highly amusing performance. The Squadron is looking forward to a Jack Benny Show later this year when they return from the SW Pacific Area.

In the squadron day room the favorite games are Ping Pong and Pool. The day room is very popular and plans are being made to secure a Radio and assortment of records if possible. The squadron PX is now operating every day and Beer call is well attended by everyone.

Plans for August include the 2nd Volleyball tournament between sections with several sections entering more than one team. A beach party is planned for the winner. As soon as horseshoes become available again thru Special Service a horseshoe tournament will follow immediately after the volleyball tournament. A regular Wednesday afternoon softball game between the enlisted men and Officers is scheduled.

Swimming classes for non swimmers are being held three times a week at the Hickam Pool with real progress being made. It is probable that by the end of August there will be very few non-swimmers in the squadron.

The regular quarterly AAF Athletic test will be held during August which includes situps, pullups (forward grasp) and shuttle run of 300 yards over a 60 Yd course, timed.

Officers volleyball games are very popular with much competition between the new Officers in their respective flights. Lt. Berg swam on the 7th Air Force swimming contest at the July 4th swimming races at Schofield "open house" program placing runner-up in the 200 and 400 meter freestyle races.

~~SECRET~~Radar Section:

We have completed another cycle this past month. The new P-61's were sent to us at the beginning of this month. We all were set to begin forming our own unit in fond hopes of going with them to the combat area.

We had received 9 new men into the section that were transferred to this squadron from the Signal Corps. It was a relief to have these men come in after struggling along with only 5 men since the rest of our section were sent "down under". We started from scratch this time instead of having H.A.D. check out the new ships before they were sent to us. This required a lot of work off the field at H.A.D. Hanger but we found that in the long run it saved us work because it eliminated the inspection we would have to "Pull" if some one out of the squadron would check it out.

We didn't harbor any dreams very long about going under with the planes because they soon let us know that they were meant only for replacement for the ones the boys down there have lost already. The chances now don't look too good but if they did say we were going to combat the morale of this section would go up 100%. Most of the boys have been on the island too long and are beginning to get a little restless. We are hoping that our chance will come in the near future though.

One of our boys, Sgt. Kosakowsky, was sent back to the states last week to attend signal corps OCS. He had been waiting for his call for over a year now and had just about given up hope of ever getting there. Most of the boys were a little envious but we all wish him the best of luck back there.

Intelligence:

The training of pilots, as usual routine, received most of our attention this month. Headquarters VII Fighter Command issued a new Intelligence Training Memorandum No. 13, that included with the usual topics, a new subject, "Anti-Aircraft Intelligence."

Three lectures by Captain Wilkes, 7th A.F., and one lecture by Lt. Guild, 6th Night Fighter Squadron, have been given to date on this subject.

Mr. D. Collins, Northrup Factory Representative, who had just returned from our detachment on Saipan, spoke on recent events on that island.

Three lectures based on weather and tactics were presented by Lt. Goldsworthy and Lt. Griffiths, of the 7th A.F. Weather Bureau. Flight Lieutenant Piper, R.A.A.F. spoke on Night Fighter tactics in the South Pacific. Several Geographical studies were lectured on by our own flying personnel at the squadron Officer's meetings held in the Pilot's Ready Room, from 1130 to 1200. The subjects covered were as follows; "Daito Shoto", "Okinawa Gunto" (Southern and Northern sections), "Amami Gunto", "Tokara Gunto", and "Asumi Gunto". Lt. Ward, an Observer in our organization, discussed "Simplified Navigation", (Longitudes and Latitudes), while Lt. Nagle, also of this squadron, spoke on sea birds. His topic was "Castaway Information". Capt.

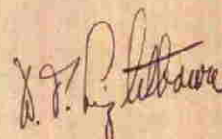
Braham, our squadron Flight Surgeon, presented a talk on "Psychological Altitudes." All of the above speakers were thoroughly familiar with their subjects, and the lectures very interesting to all concerned.

The middle part of July, T/Sgt. Zendler, resumed his class in the Renshaw Recognition System of Aircraft. Classes are held every evening from 1815 to 1845 in the Pilot's Ready Room, and are attended by all pilots and observers.

Sixteen new pilots and observers joined the organization during the past month. All were indoctrinated in security measures by Lt. D.P. Lightbown, squadron Intelligence Officer; and all were also shown the latest Island Existence film, "Castaway"

Orientation for the Enlisted men continued with the usual weekly "get-together" in the squadron Day Room. "What to Do with Germany after the war", "The United States, and Russia's part in post-war world affairs", were discussed. "One of the best orientation films seen to date, "The Battle of China", was also shown.

Mission reports, (see attached EXHIBITS 1 thru 20), from our detachment at Saipan, are posted in the S-2 Section. The detachment's progress is eagerly watched for by the entire squadron.



D.P. LIGHTBOWN,
1st Lt., A.C.,
Unit Historian.