

READY
LOG



VP-205

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THIS LOG-BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE UNOFFICIAL BUSINESS OF THE SQUADRON. PICTURES, SCIENTIFIC DATA, PART-TIME ACTIVITIES OF SQUADRON MEMBERS, SKETCHES BY ARTISTS, AND IN SHORT ANYTHING THAT CONTRIBUTES TO THE LORE OF THE SQUADRON — WILL BE ACCEPTED WITH GREAT PLEASURE. ANY VERSE, ESSAY OR SKETCH SHOULD BE DONE IN INK TO BE MORE LASTING.

ANYTHING IS ACCEPTABLE BUT KEEP IT CLEAN!!!

REMEMBER — HIGHLIGHTS &
HEADLINES OF ↗
VP-205



PLANK-OWNERS

LT. M. C. McGRATH - ACTING COMMANDER

LT. R. R. JESTER

LT. J. M. KIPP

LT. (UG) C. L. BOOTHMAN

ENS. P. W. SLAGEL

ENS. W. H. SCHWANT

ENS. T. J. WEISHAUP

ENS. M. I. BISHOP

ENS. G. E. WELCH

ENS. W. J. LA PLANTE

ENS. G. D. LIZER

ENS. D. I. SANTURE

ENS. L. H. NEU

ENS. H. R. RIVELAND

ENS. C. B. DONAHUE

ENS. D. E. LA FON

ENS. R. V. MORRIS

ENS. E. G. WOOD

ENS. J. B. BALDWIN

ENS. M. F. JONES

ENS. H. H. HUTCHERSON

ENS. M. W. RAIBLEY

ENS. F. R. WALKER

ENS. D. H. MCGINNIS

ENS. F. E. EVANS

ENS. G. S. JORGENSEN

ENS. W. H. JOHNSON

ENS. O. DUFFY

ENS. M. L. BURGER

ENS. W. H. F. HASSE

ENS. J. R. ISACKSON

ENS. D. KIRK, JR.

ENS. E. O. MITCHELL

ENS. D. B. GILMORE, JR.

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Highlight of 1942

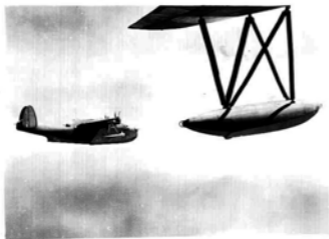
Commissioning of VP-205

Our Squadron went into Commission on Sunday, Nov. 1, 1942. Present at the Commissioning ceremonies were three (3) Lt's., one (1) Lt. (jg), and thirty (30) Ensigns to make the whole thing look official. Without the Ensigns we'd have been a sorry sight.

Lt. M.C. M'GRATH U.S.N., who formerly executed in TTSA, assumed command in the absence of Lt. Comdr. A.S. Hill U.S.N. All in all, it took a surprisingly short time for such an important event. Some of us felt that the proceedings should have been broad cast on a national hook-up.

In the front of the Log is a list of those officers who were present. They automatically became the plank-owners of VP-205.

Look out everyone - VP-205 is spawned.



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PROSECUTION

Here is an outstanding example of the "Greener Pasture on the other side of the Fence" belief. Ensign Desachsen - a pilot of one of the Navy's "Big boats" had hallucinations to the effect that flying a fighter plane was much more desirable work.

So

On or about the ~~15~~²⁴th of December, 1942, he did willfully and with malice aforethought, proceed to the land plane hangar at Chambers field, Norfolk, Virginia. There he obtained a cockpit checkout in an F4F by which token he felt qualified as a fighter pilot. With heroic intentions and quaking heart he climbed into aforementioned cockpit and "off he goes into the broad blue yonder". The takeoff run resembled nothing so much as a drunk taching across a bar room deck but was remarkable in that the plane finally did become airborne.

Ensign Desachsen flitted amongst the clouds for a period of ten minutes and then decided he'd try his new wings at a landing. Here his cockpit checkout failed him and so he came around for another shot. This time (No. 2) he came closer but still no soap. On the third attempt he did hit the runway in a violent spiral and, since the runway wasn't going his way, he caroomed across the infield at terrific speed. The plane was built for rough landings, but not such as this, so it folded its knees and finished its run on its back - the state rests.

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PROSECUTION

On this memorable day Lt. Comdr. A. S. Hill, Skipper of VP-205, went out on a routine training hop. Always a stickler for pre-flight checks is Capt. Hill, but he failed to comply with his own directive on this day.

The take-off was uneventful for once and the plane became airborne. Upon reaching the altitude of 200 ft. Arturo decided to nose over a bit but pressure in a forward direction on the yoke brought no response. Backward pressure was equally futile and the Skipper decided he was under way but had no way on. Luckily he was able to reduce power and make what might be called a safe landing. No hits, no runs, one (1) error.

- Pre-flight checks are mandatory.

Boat Ride to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

As a group of Naval Aviators we were perhaps the biggest bunch of land lubbers ever sent out in a ship of the U.S. Fleet. Departed Norfolk, VA. on the 28th of Jan. 1943 and arrived at San Juan, Puerto Rico on the 1st of February. The trip was smooth sailing all the way, but more food was left uneaten than in any other 4 day period of the fiscal year. The major sport was feeding the fish - an active game that brought the sweat out on the brow of all who participated.

Poker - played in a forward bunkroom was almost continuous - some people never learn. "Pop" Adams was the charming host, and he really charmed the money away from his guests.

Upon arrival at San Juan, a few of the boys did some giving of Thanks to the power that brought them safely through. That ritual over, they beat a hasty path to the Normandie. Back to the ship about 4 AM. and up a few hours later to move to N.A.S. SAN JUAN.

TRAUGERS NOW A FIRST PILOT

IT WAS EARLY IN MARCH OF 1943 THAT LT. COMMANDER A. S. HILL CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT R. J. "HYMIE" TRAUGER WAS DULY QUALIFIED AS A FIRST PILOT IN VP-205. THIS WAS NOT AN EASY DECISION FOR THE SKIPPER TO COME TO, SINCE HYMIE HAD NOT FILLED HIS LITTLE SYLABUS WITH SIGNATURES AS WAS REQUIRED OF THE RANK AND FILE. WE WON'T GO INTO THE REAL REASON FOR THIS PROMOTION, BUT ONE OF THE SIDE REASONS MUST HAVE BEEN TRAUGERS GIFT OF GAB. THE STAMPING OF THE LOG-BOOK IS WHAT COUNTS IN THIS LEAGUE.

ONE AFTERNOON HYMIE, WITH TWO LUCKLESS ENSIGNS, WENT OUT FOR A BOUNCE DRILL. BOUNCE SHOULD BE CAPITALIZED AND PLACED IN ITALICS. PERHAPS BOUNCE IS THE WRONG WORD; CRASH SEEMS MORE FITTING. ANYWAY THEY WENT OUT FOR AN AIRPLANE RIDE. HYMIE - REMEMBER HE IS NOW A FIRST PILOT - DECIDED TO SHOW THE UNQUALIFIED PILOTS HOW A FULL-STALL SHOULD BE DONE. THE APPROACH WAS PERFECT - THE EXECUTION FINE - THE LANDING -

HERBIE NYDAHL WAS FOLLOWING TRAUGER AROUND THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE AN HE SAW "BOTH CROWN AND TAIL TURRETS UNDER WATER". A DISINTERESTED BY-STANDER SAW "GREEN WATER PASS OVER THE RADAR DOG-HOUSE." HEDRON REPORTED THE PORT FLOAT DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR.

THUS ENDED TRAUGERS "FIRST" "FIRST".

WE - THE GREAT UNQUALIFIED - BELIEVE IN OUR SYLABUS. WE BELIEVE IT TO BE VERY NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE IN FLIGHT. WE BELIEVE.

Where your skin is burnt to parchment,
In the scorching noonday suns,
And you wake up on bright mornings,
With a screaming case of runs.

Where the vampire bats and scorpions,
Almost make you lose your wits,
And the whistling, jabbering natives,
Tear your jagged nerves to bits.

Where the roaches own your closets,
And devour your Sunday clothes,
And a way to kill the bastards,
Not a single fellow knows.

Where your dreams are full of oxcarts,
On a road that's 4 feet wide,
And every damn pedestrian
Seems intent on suicide.

Where you see a bunch of natives
Like a blooming jamboree,
And you learn it's just a barber
Doing business neath a tree.

Where the snakes and spiders haunt you
When you go to bed at night,
And you lie there, naked, sweating,
While the gnats and skeeters bite.

Where the youngest and the oldest
Greet you everywhere you go,
With the never ending query,
"Have you got a penny Joe?"

Where you meet all sorts of people
From the finest to the seum,
And you drink yourself half crazy
On the lousy two bit rum.

Where the gentle trade-winds scamper,
In a pleasant tropics clime,
And the sky is clear and cloudless,
Yet it rains most anytime.

Where the old men wear the diapers
And the kids no pants at all,
And there never is a springtime
Or a winter or a fall.

Where the air is full of odor,
And the odor's always bad,
Relax my men and take a drink,
For you're stuck in "TRINIDAD."

June 1, 1943

The Squadron flew to Trinidad and arrived in port on the 1st of June, 1943. The above poem expresses the present feeling for Trinidad, but such was not the case on the day of our arrival. Several junior officers were quartered in 7A, an old chiefs barracks and not the best place in the world. New station for us and a bit of new life.



CREW NO. 1.

AUG 20, 1943

LT. COMDR, M. C. McGRATH

LT.(jg) D. H. McGINNIS

ENS. R. F. WHITE

CHIEF SPOERL

CHIEF KNUTINEN

PERFIT

LYNN

VIEHLAND

ARMESY



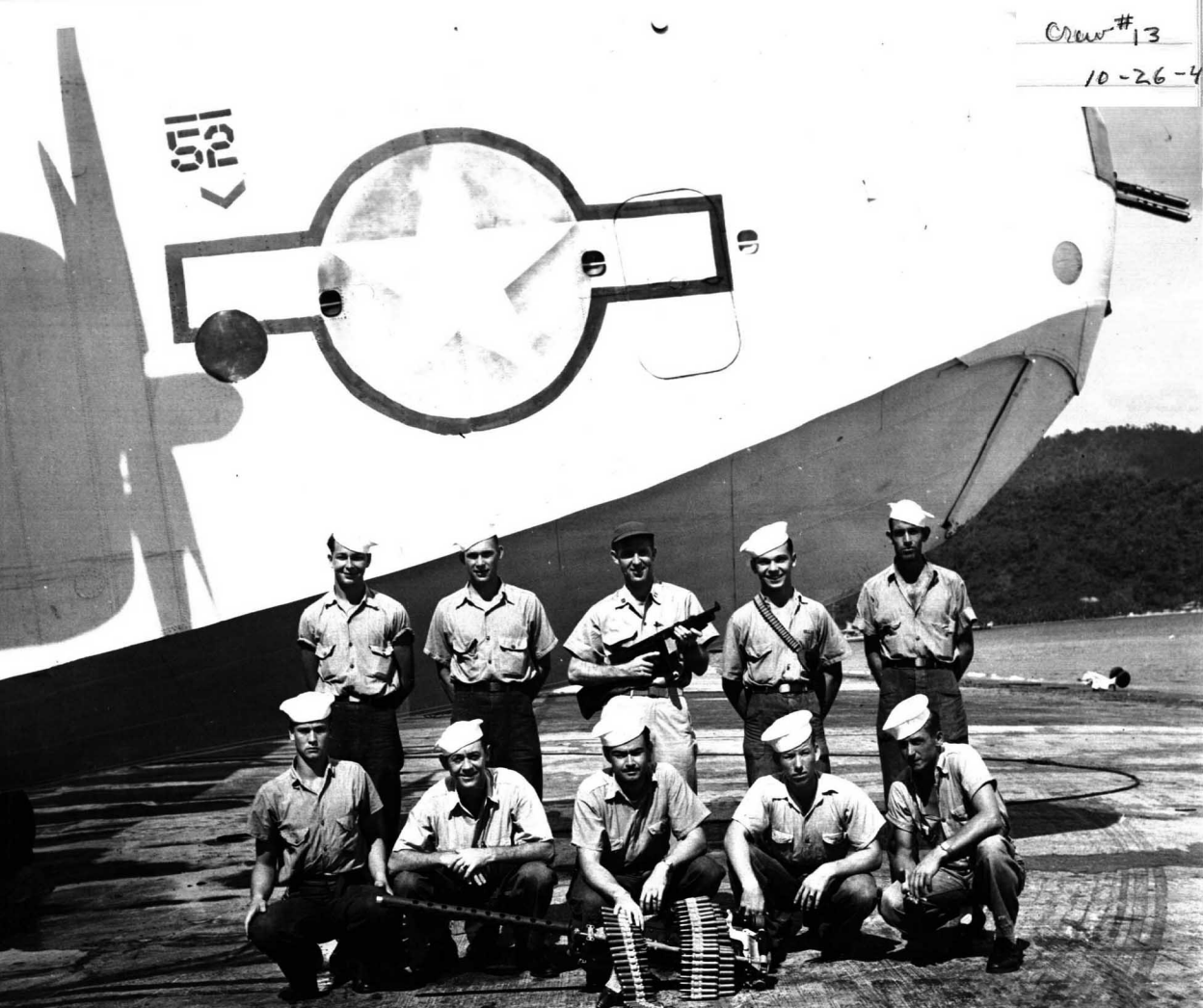
Crew # 24

10-26-43

R. J. TRAUGER
T. J. WEISHAUF
S. GARNER

Crew # 13

10-26-43





CREW # 3

AUG. 30, 1943

W.P. SMITH
H.H. HUTCHERSON
R.K. BOODION^{EAU}

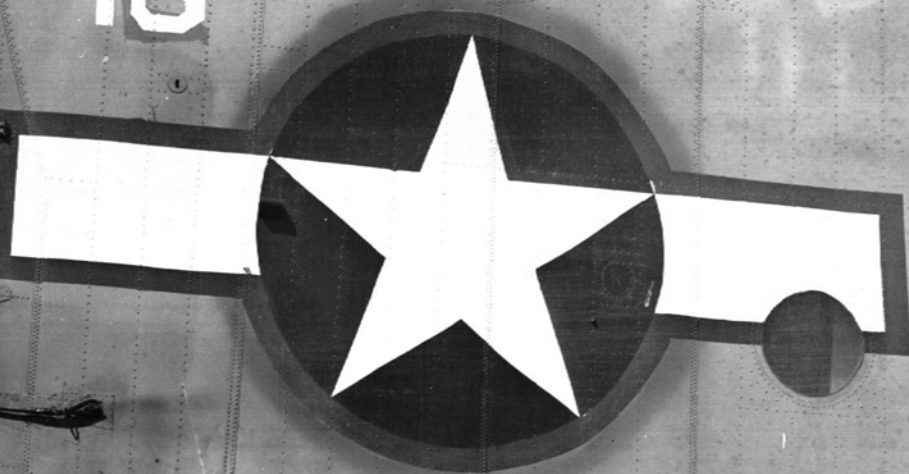
BRIGHT
HESSION
GRADY
KOVAK
WYSOCKI
RUNKLE
RODGERS
LOWE



205-P-8

CREW13

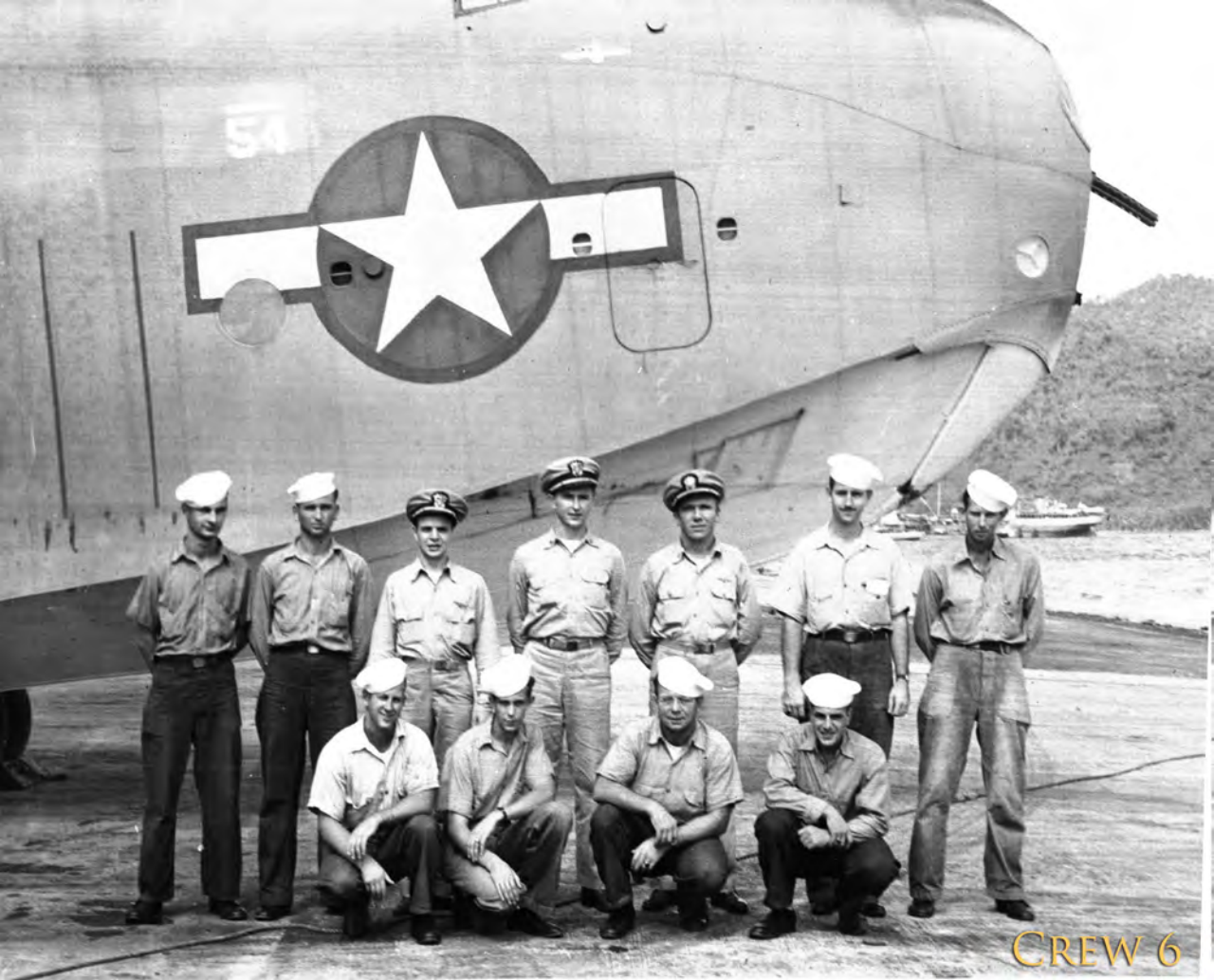
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14

Lt. (jg) J.L. SMITH — PPC
Lt. (jg) P.W. SLAGEL
Lt (jg) J.R. ISACKSON

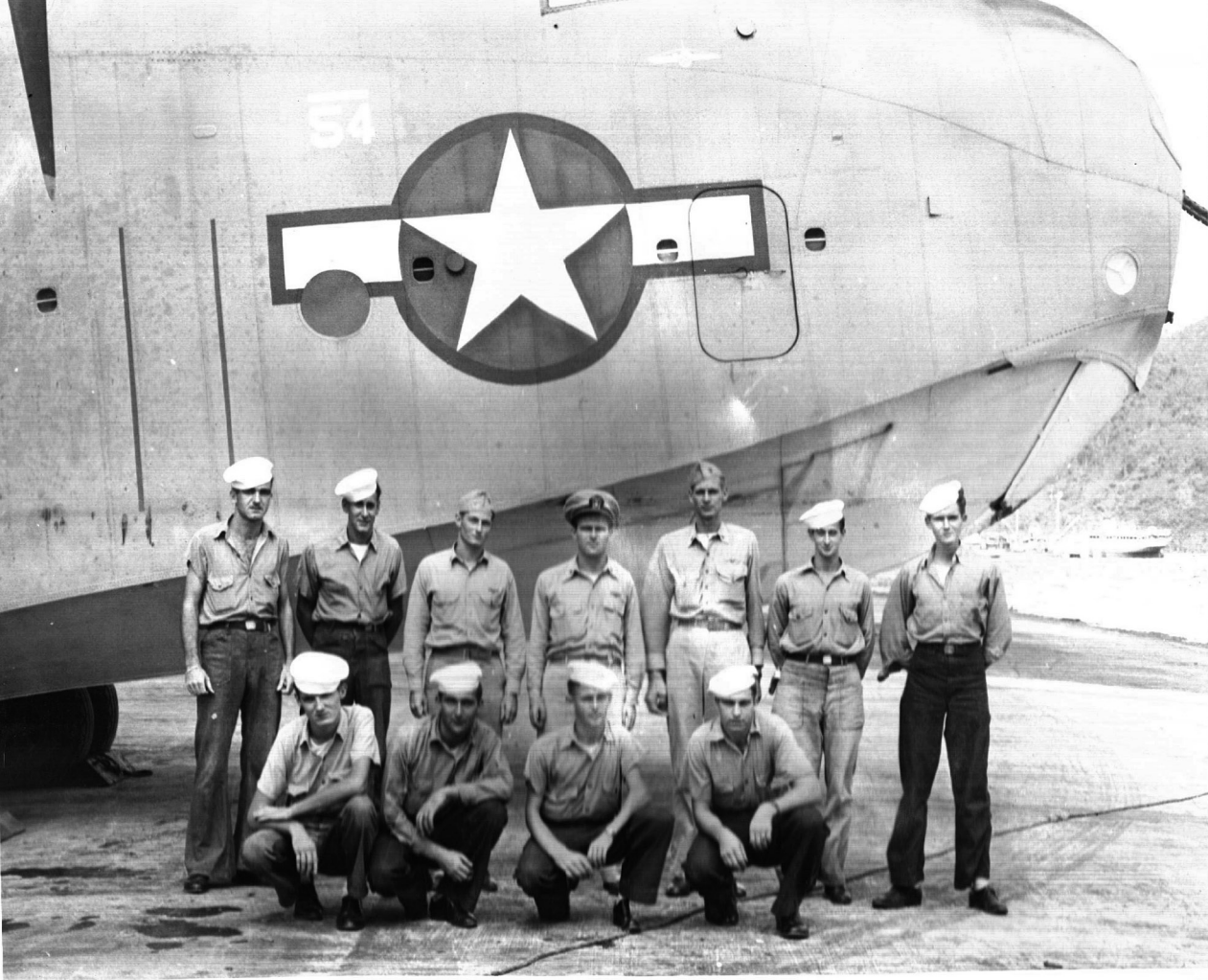
TONEY
GANGWISCH
COWART
LYON
BURRESS
DAVIDSON
HANCOCK
DE CAMP



54



CREW 6



9

10-26-43

LT. ROUGHGARDEN
ENS. LEBTE
ENS. SCHOETTGER

NOONAN
LISTON
KNAPP
GILMORE
LINDSAY



Lt. (jg)	M. I. BISHOP	1 st PILOT
Lt. (jg)	J. B. BALDWIN	1 st PILOT
CAF	MINGSLEY	

EASTWOOD, BAGWELL, RICH, ROBINSON,

FACER, BARKER, MAGGIO CARPENTER



CREW # 4

LT. COMDR. R. S. NULL

LT. (jg) JR. BALDWIN
CAPT. HARDY

VOLDEK - PLANE CAPT.

BAKER

~~RETT~~

LIGHT

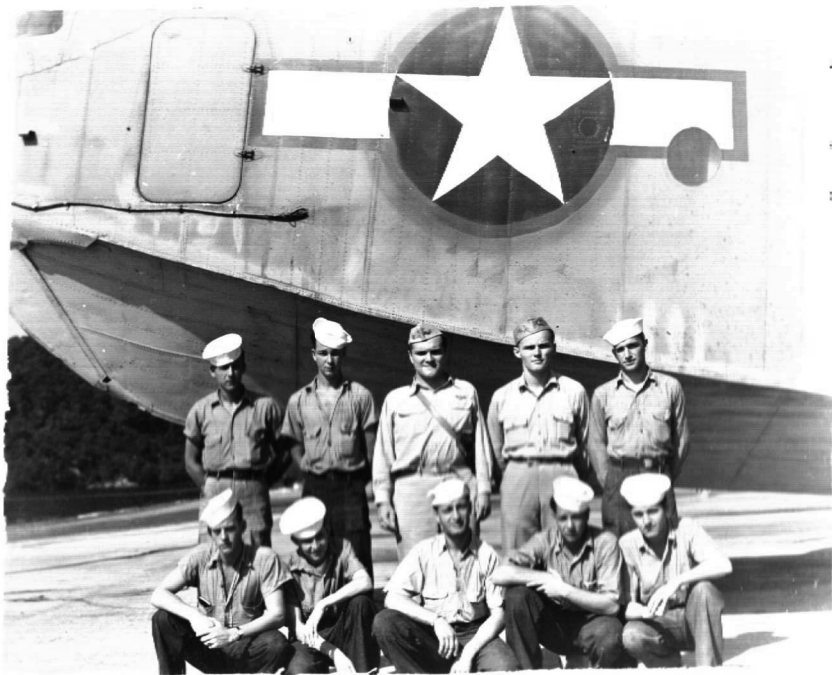
MAY

BARTUS

DOUCET

ROBINSON

FOUNTAIN



Lt. CATTERMOLE
Lt. GY MCGINNIS

CZECATOWSKI
JAWORSKI
CARROLLA

LONG

ELLIS

HRSAK

JONES

M^O DAVID



CREW # 5 AUG. 1943

Lt. ERSKINE
FL. ENG. - BALL
C IOFFARI
BRADLEY
MATHES
SMITH

Lt. (jg) MORRIS

DILLON
KNAPP

Lt. (jg) DUFFY

PLANE CAPT. NEWTON



Lt. MINTON
Lt. (jg) W.H. JOHNSON
Lt. (jg) RAIBLEY

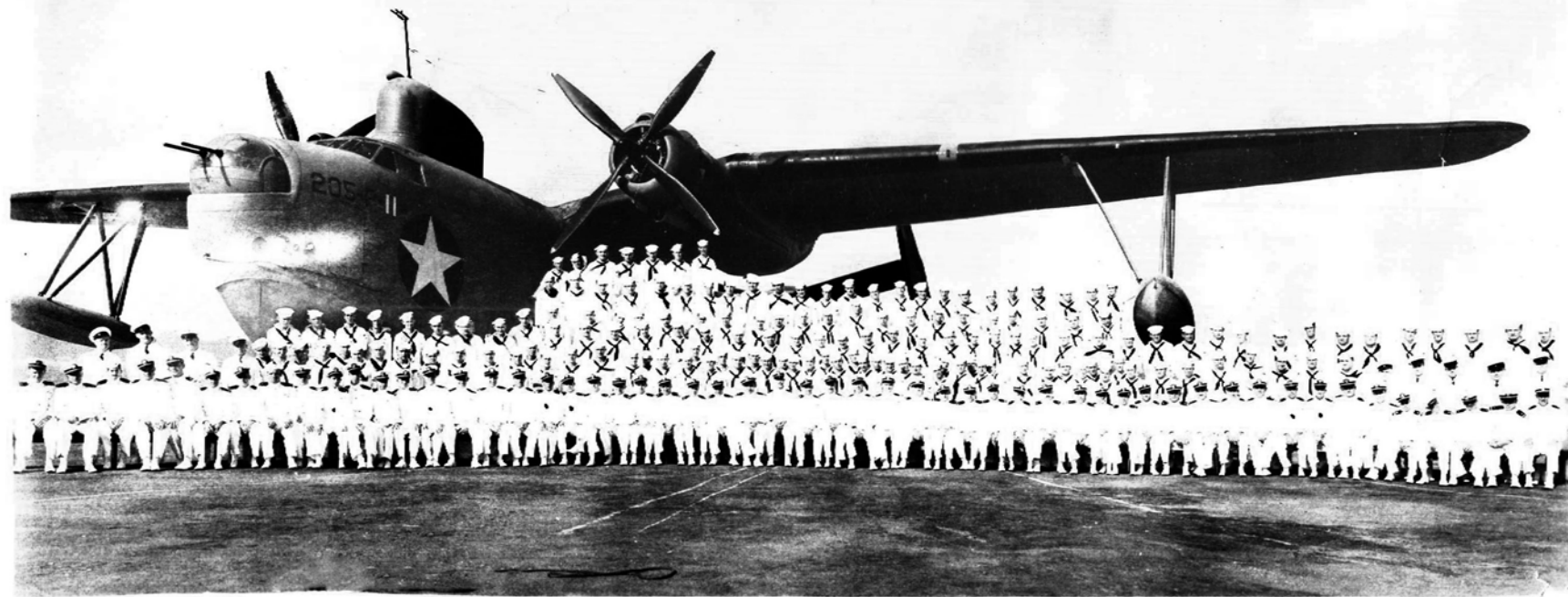
FREEMAN
HALLOWAY

DEANETTE
M'LERRAN

HOWARD
BOWERS
RHODEN
BURGESS

Lt. CATTERMOLE
Lt. Hq) KIRK
Lt. Hq) BORYLO





PICTURE TAKEN AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO IN MAY OF 1943

LT. COMDR. M. C. McGRATH — COMMANDING

LT. R. R. JESTER — EXEC.

LT. J. M. HIPP — FLIGHT OFFICER

LT. R. S. NULL — GUNNERY OFFICER

LT. E. G. WAY — ASS'T COMMUNICATIONS

LT. G. B. CATTERMOLE — COMMUNICATIONS

LT. H. M. ERSKINE —

LT. R. J. TRAUGER —

LT. D. H. WINTON

LT. J. L. SMITH

LT. A. R. MATUSKI

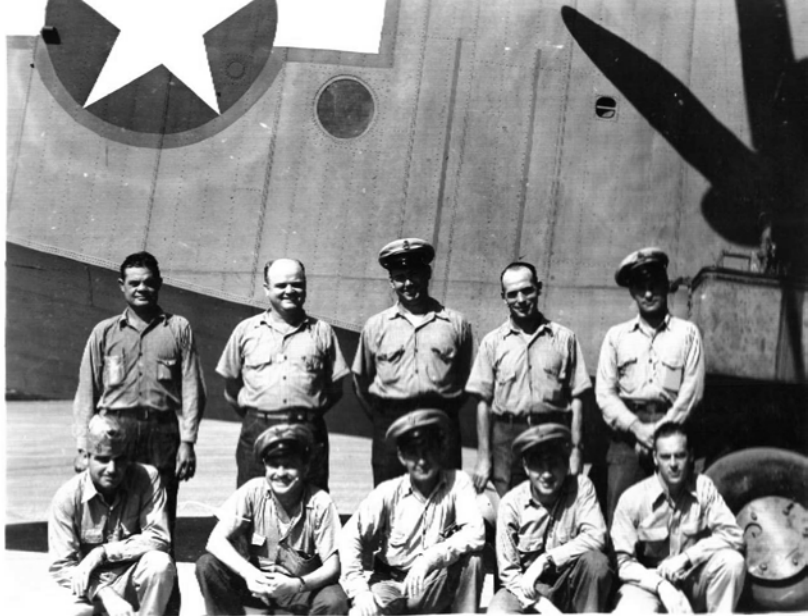
LT. H. B. LAURENCE



CREW # 4

CAR BONARO, CLARK, CAP. CRABBY, LT. TRAUER, Ltjdr WEISHAUPF

MOSS



CHIEFS

THOMAS, GRANT, GAFFNEY, HARKINS, WHITE
HARDY, CONNELLY, HORNE, KNUTSEN, FARRIS



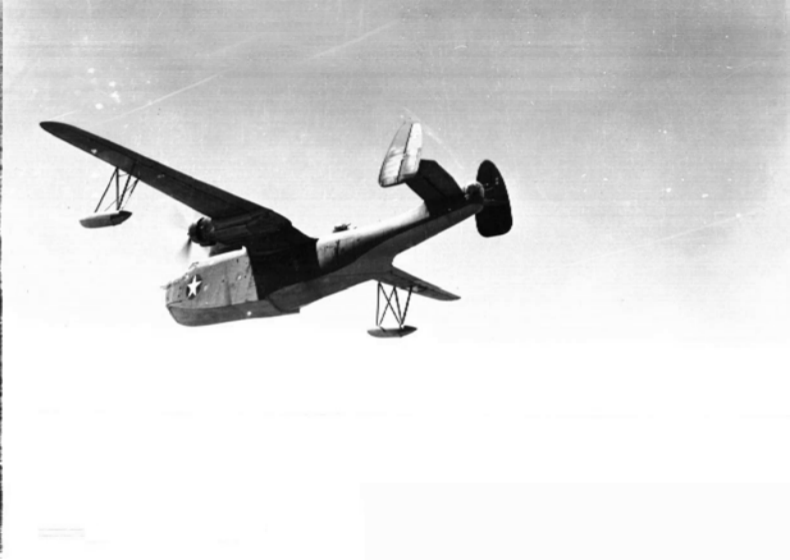
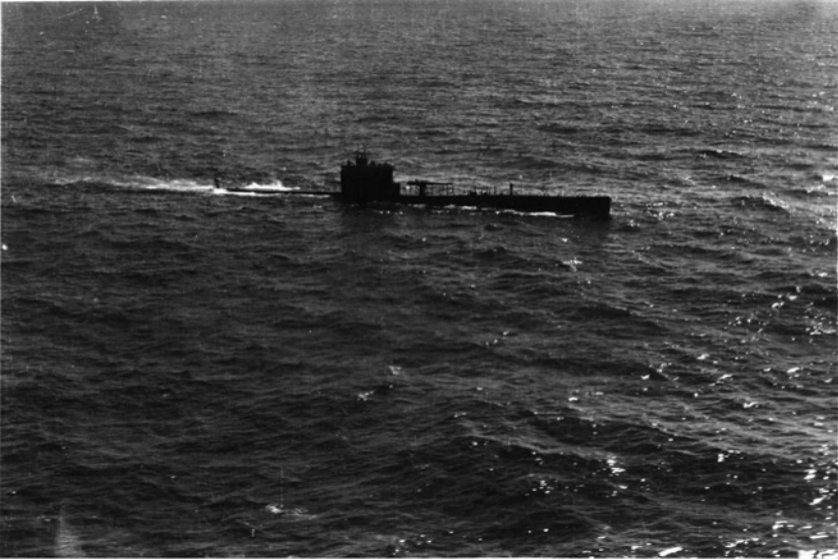
CREW #5

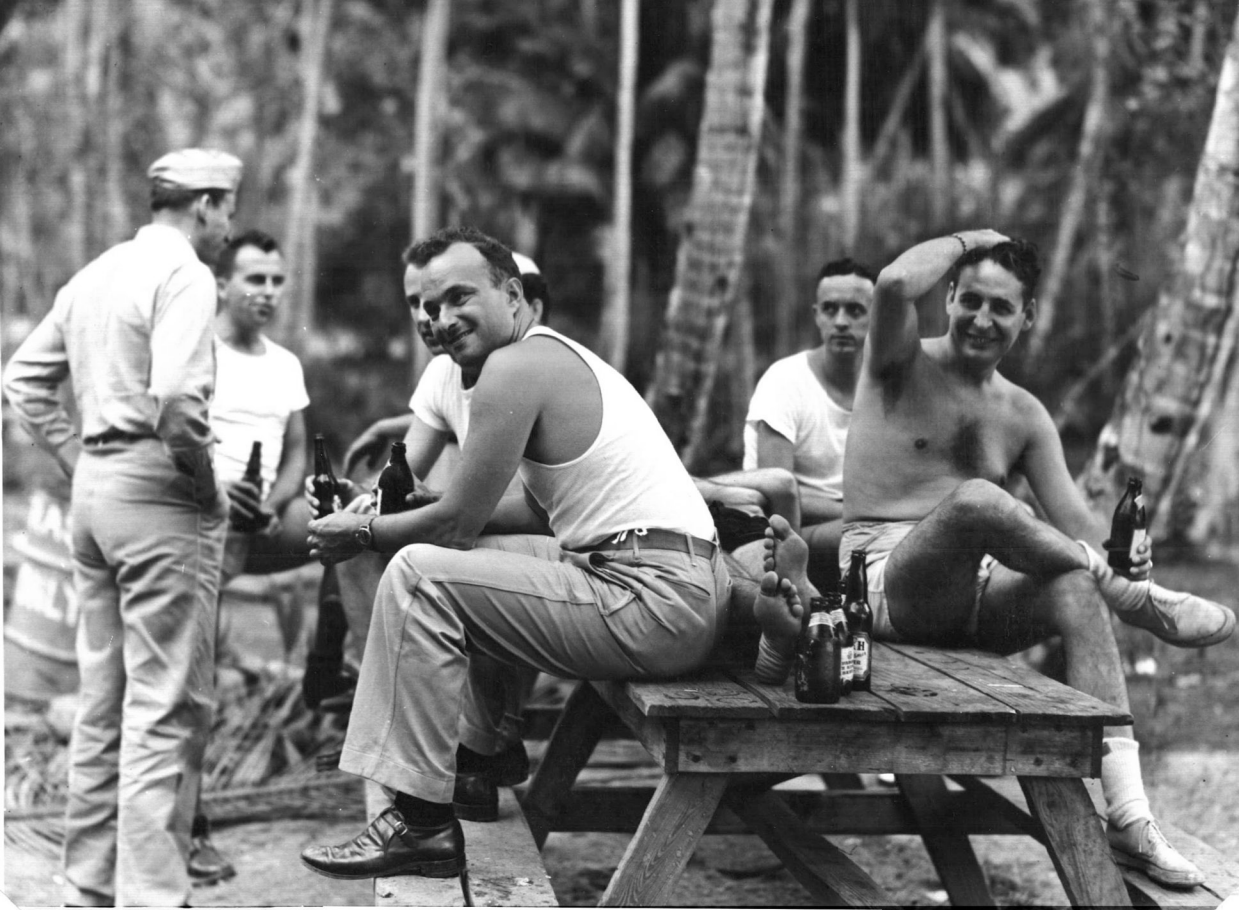
CONNOR Lt. J. W. ADAMS Lt. G. NYDAHL ENS. SCHOETTER, MILLER
CATHY, MAZZONE, KUTKA, YATES, THWAITES, CHRISMAN











TRAUSER
HAUCK
KATSHAW
CAPT. NULL
BOOTHMAN
WAY

ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - NOV. 1, 1943



"WHAT A ~~SEE~~ BLAZE

TRAUBER - "NURSE MAID"

CATTERMOLE

WAY

NULL

ROUGHGARDEN

ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - NOV. 1, 1943



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - Nov. 1, 1943



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - NOV. 1, 1943



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - Nov. 1, 1943



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC -- NOV. 1, 1943.



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - NOV. 1, 1943



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC - NOV. 1, 1943



HYMIE TRAUER
KEN ERSKINE
CAPT. KULL
N. G. JOHNSON
CATTERMOLE
WAY

ANNIVERSARY PICNIC — NOV. 1, 1943



ANNIVERSARY PICNIC — NOV. 1, 1943

OFFICERS. 51N6 — NOV. 18, 1943



COMMANDER A. S. HILL gives WITH SONG AND (SMILE?)



LEFT TO RIGHT -
CF. WALKER, ROUGHGARDEN, HESSE
J.L. SMITH, MINTON, MARKS,
LATSHAW, BALDWIN, BISHOP

OFFICERS SING - NOV. 18, 1943



OFFICERS SING — NOV. 18, 1943



OFFICERS SING - NOV. 18, 1943



OFFICERS SONG-FEST — NOV. 18, 1943



OFFICERS SONG-FEST - NOV. 18, 1943



BOMBS DROPS, - NOV. 1943

SMITH, J. L.



BOMB DROPS — AUG. 1943

McGRATH



BOMB DROPS - NOV 1943

CHRISTMAS IN TRINIDAD. 1943

THESE NEXT PICTURES TAKEN IN TRINIDAD ON
CHRISTMAS EVE OF 1943. PARTY WAS HELD IN
"C" BOQ AND LASTED TILL MORNING. EACH OFFICER
DREW A NAME AND BOUGHT A SHILLING PRESENT THAT
WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FITTING & PROPER. MANY OF
THE PICTURES SHOW THE PRESENTS.



CHRISTMAS 1943

CHRISTMAS PARTY — 1943



SLEEPY MAGDON & SNAF SHOW THEIR CHRISTMAS GIFT.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - 1943





CHRISTMAS PARTY - 1943
THE SENATOR ORATES.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - 1943





LEFT TO RIGHT —
DROLET, WALKER, PANET,
NUNGESSER, SCHOETEGR, RAIBLEY

7/13/1981

Dear Bob and Bev -

Just stopped in to say
hello to George and he had just
received this great book! We
had lots of fun going through
it.

I remember Bev, when you and
your mother and I went down
in Napack to have your silver
anniversary -

Barbara died Feb 7, 1978
of a heart attack - She had a
great life with good job -
lots of friends and we had
5 children. We lost a 21 yr. old
son - an accident but our
other children are lots of
comfort and joy -

Am moving to Texas -
the Spring -

Warmest regards to
you both

Roberta Berger
(Bibi)

10-12 82

TO: Those of 205 which were from the "31" warbirds going South and Pensacola Class 3B42. It was a treat to see your log.

I stayed in the Navy, retiring 1 July 1963. Didn't see much of you "Hamburger Pilots" as I was in the "Tailhook Navy". Have kept in touch with Don Michie and George Jorgenson.

Now live in San Diego. Widowed, and please call if you come thru.
Ted Keller

E. T. KELLER
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SAN DIEGO CA 92119
(714) 465 7553