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Authority: E.O. 13526

By: NDC NARA Date: Dec 31, 2012

CARRIER AIR GROUP TWENTY-SIX

(CAG-26)

10 January 1945 - 31 October 1945

Original

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FG-26/A12-1
Serial 28

**UNITED STATES PACIFIC FLEET
AIR FORCE
AIR GROUP TWENTY-SIX**

med

**Fleet Post Office,
San Francisco, Calif.**
1 November 1945

From: Commander Air Group Twenty Six.
To : History Unit, Op-33-J-6, Office of
Editorial Research.

Subject: History of Air Group Twenty Six - Submission of.

Reference: (a) Aviation Circular Letter # 74-44.

Enclosure: (A) History of Air Group Twenty Six.

1. In accordance with reference (a) subject history
is submitted herewith.

G. R. Palus
G. R. PALUS

*Duplicate copy
destroyed 11/19/45
Henry M. Dalt
Lieut. USNR.*

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PART I

CHRONOLOGY

1. Date of Origin: 10 January 1945.

CVEG-26 was reformed on this date in accordance with Commander Fleet Air, Seattle Confidential despatch 101750 dated January. Ensign Edgar H. Buns (A1)L 368417 assumed temporary command of the Fighting Squadron. Ensign Clinton H. Hartzell (A1)L 414104 assumed temporary command of the Torpedo Squadron. The Air Group consisted of a torpedo squadron and a fighting squadron. It had an assigned complement of 18 F6F-5 and 12 TBM.

2. Names of Commanding Officers:

Air Group 26
VF-26

Name: Paul V. Thompson
Rank: Lt. Cdr.
Hometown: San Francisco, Calif.
Dates of Command: 17 Jan. 1945 -
29 June 1945

Air Group 26
VF-26

Name: George R. Palus
Rank: Lt. Cdr.
Hometown: New Castle, Penna.
Dates of Command: 8 July 1945 -
1 Nov. 1945

Torpedo Squadron 26

Name: Thomas L. Andrews
Rank: Lt. Cdr.
Hometown: Amarillo, Texas
Dates of Command: 19 Jan. 1945 -
1 Nov. 1945

3. Transfers of Commands:

Next higher echelon of command:	From	To
ComFair, Seattle	1/10/45	- 5/15/45
ComFair, West Coast	5/15/45	- 6/13/45
ComAirPac.	6/13/45	- 11/1/45

4. Significant Changes in Function:

Air Group 26 was reformed as an Escort Carrier Air Group (CVEG-26)
There were no changes made in its functions.

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5. Physical Movements of Unit:

- (a) During the training period within the continental limits of the United States.

NAS Seattle, Wash. 10 Jan. 45 - 22 Jan. 1945.
NAS Pasco, Wash. 22 Jan. 45 - 28 April 1945.
NAS Arlington, Wash. 28 April 45 - 15 May 1945.
NAS San Diego, Calif. 15 May 45 - 13 June 1945.

- (b) Outside continental limits of United States:

On 13 June 1945, CVEG-26 was embarked in the U.S.S. ANTIETAM (CV-36) for transportation to Pearl Harbor. This was in accordance with ComFair West Coast Secret despatch 071953 dated 7 June 1945. The Air Group arrived at Pearl Harbor on 19 June 1945 and was immediately transferred to NAS, Hilo, Hawaii arriving there on 20 June 1945. Period at NAS Hilo extended from 20 June 1945 until 19 July 1945.

19 July 1945 until 31 July 1945:
Embarked in U.S.S. WHITE PLAINS (CVE-66) for transportation to Guam.

31 July 1945: Embarked in U.S.S. SANTEE (CVE-29) at Guam.

6. Actions in which engaged:

All actions of Air Group 26 took place after the cessation of hostilities with Japan. The Air Group took part thereafter in the evacuation of Prisoners of War at Formosa Island. The occupation landings at Wakayama, Japan and Kure, Japan.

Formosa 5 September 1945 - 9 September 1945.
Wakayama - September 1945 - Kure - October 1945.

7. Loss of Personnel.

The Air Group had no loss of personnel through enemy action. The following officers were killed:

Lt. Cdr. V. Gang 99161	3 September 1945.
Ensign C.W. Coleman 402713	2 February 1945
Ensign C.F. Saine 382859	15 August 1945.

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PART II

NARRATIVE

Air Group 26 was reformed at NAS Seattle on 10 January 1945. For the next 155 days before departed for overseas duty carried on an intense training program in accordance with ComFair, West Coast training syllabus. There were no outstanding problems that confronted the air group prior to it's departure for overseas duty. The Air Group was given a "WELL DONE" by ComFair, Seattle on the occasion of it's transfer to the San Diego area on 15 May 1945.

Approximately a month later the group was transferred to NAS Hilo, Hawaii for the completion of its training. While at this station the Air Group Commander Lt. Cdr. P.V. THOMPSON, USN was killed while on a night Field Carrier Landing Practice flight. Shortly thereafter Lt. Cdr. G. R. PALUS, USN assumed command of the Air Group.

Under orders from ComAirPac. the air group proceeded to Guam where it was embarked on its parent carrier the U.S.S. SANTEE (CVE-29).

All actions of Air Group 26 took place after the cessation of hostilities with Japan.