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ranging from the little Kohler light plant up to as much as 10 kw scattered around and we had auxiliary lines where they could be thrown into the most essential places where we needed power, like the radio shack and the CP. Two bombs got direct hits on our mess hall and made kindlewood out of all facilities to feed our people.

One other bomb was intended for the power house but missed. It caused us more work and grief than if it had hit. It cut the gas lines from the dock where gasoline was discharged from the tank on the barge to our main gasoline storage tanks.

We had as high as 36 B-17's to keep in the air, and 18 to 24 PBV-5A's. From 8 o'clock in the morning on the 4th of June we had to manhandle all of our gasoline in drums and pump it by hand or with the little gasoline engine and fuel pumps. Being about out of airplanes, the men of the Marine air group became a service unit. As soon as the threat of landing was over we called on the raiders. They're a pretty tough bunch of boys; they took great delight in showing us just how much gasoline they could handle, and they really could handle it. I think everybody on our side would have gone out on their feet if it hadn't been for them. We handled about 400,000 gallons of gasoline by the strong-arm method in the next week's operations. When the B-17's, after about 1400 miles of flying, and the PBV's, came back and asked for a drink of gasoline, they really want a slug.

The personnel all lived in dugouts, except a few which they hadn't had time to prepare the dugouts for. The dugouts were made by scooping the sand out about three or four feet deep, and in the hole building a large rectangular room, with heavy framing and two inch stuff, and with an entrance at each end. The boards were covered with paper and tar which made the place more or less water-proof. Over the whole was shoveled the dirt that came out of the hole, and additional sand was put on top until they had what they felt was reasonable protection against light shelling or bomb fragments. Of course, there was no protection against a direct hit.

As a matter of fact, few people stayed in the dugouts except in the CP or radio room. We had fixed slit trenches outside and indoctrinated the people to go into them for protection.

To conceal the dugouts we used the brush scraped off to lay the runways - there was a lot of dead brush and sticks - so we gathered that up and threw it loosely on top of the dugouts.

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