Harine Observation Squadron 251

31 August, 1942.

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From: The Commanding Officer.

- To: (1) The Chief of Naval Operations. (Office of Naval Records and Library.)
- (2) The Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.
- (3) The Commanding General, 2nd Marine Air Wing.
- (4) The Commander, Amphibious Force, Pacific.
- (5) The Commander, Carriers, Pacific.

Subject: War Diary, continuance of, and submittance of.

Reference: (a.) 2nd Marine Air Wing General Order 16-42 dated 2nd June, 1942.

- (b.) Pacific Fleet Letter. 111-42 dated 11 March, 1942.
- (c.) Op Nav Ltr file FF1/Al2-1 (7) (291) Al2-1 (420222) dated Feb. 1942.
- 1. In accordance with references (a), (b), and (c)
 The War Diary of Marine Observation Equadron Two
 Fifty One is submitted this date.
- 2. Copies of this diary dating from 1 August to 31 August are herewith submitted.

JOHN N. HART, Lt. Col., USHC. Sammartion Squares 201

WAR DIARY

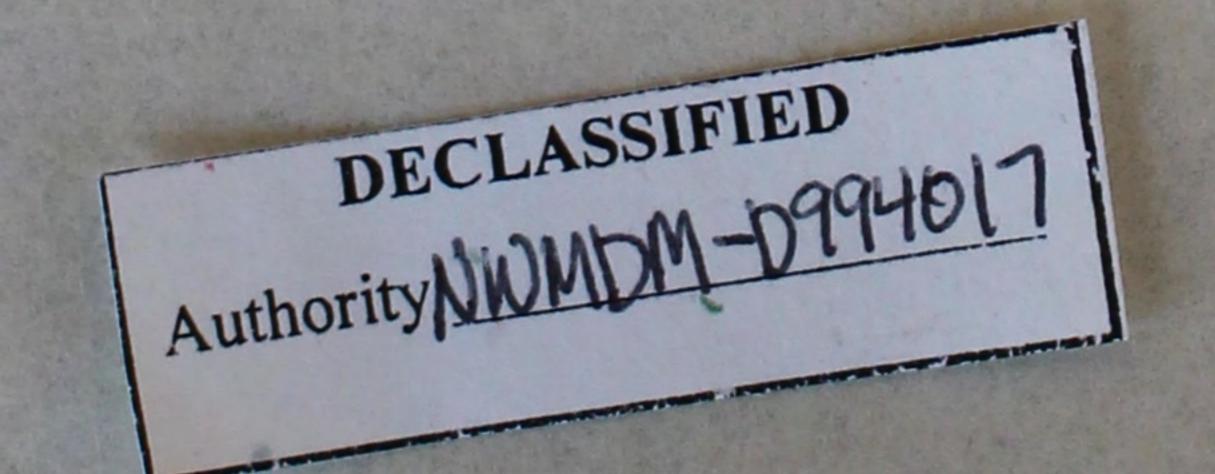
CONFIDENTIAL

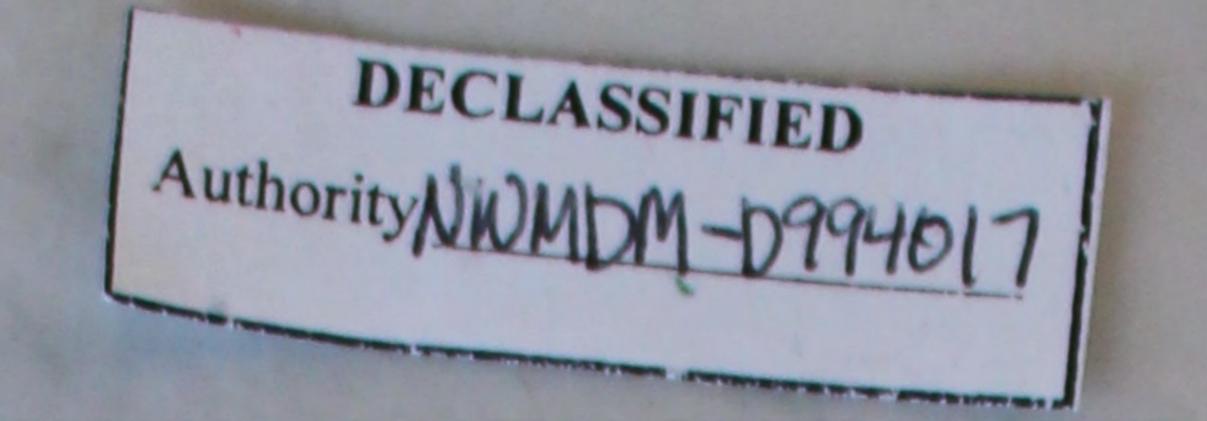
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

laugust. 1942.

Strength 29 Officers (6 detached duty) 212 Enlisted (7 detached duty). Planes assigned 18, planes in commission 15, in transit 3. All equipment and planes not in use in process of being transported to the docks. Working details established both on dock and ship.

(1900)





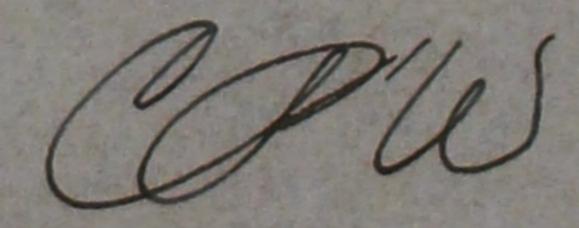
CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

2 august, 1942.

detached duty) All remaining camp and field facilities transported to the dock. Camp broken and policed. Loading of U.S.S. Curtis continued until 1600. Three barges and 10 trucks of squadron equipment and property were left behind due to the shortage of time prior to sailing. Shipment of remainder to be made later. Detail of 14 officers (pilots); 1 AP; 8 plane crew members, and one radioman were left to ferry and service squadron sireraft.

Muster held aboard Curtis. No absentees. Sailed from Moumes, New Caledonia at 1610 convoyed by U.S.S. Maryland.



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WAR DIARY

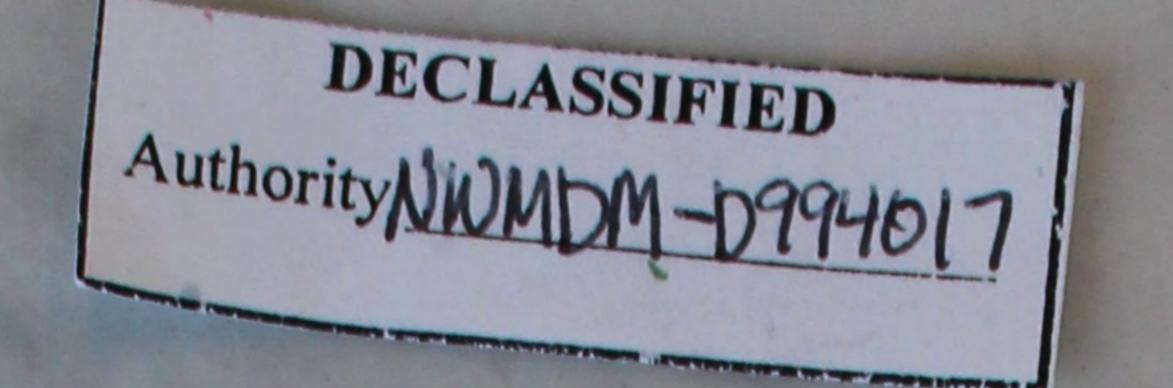
CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

3 August, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty). Normal sea routine. Information received promoting Marine Gunner Pardee and Straine to Second Lieutenant, also MTSgt. Witt and Gilmore to Marine Gunners, Quartermaster Sergeant Musachia to Quartermaster Clerk as of July 7, 1942.

Detail of Officers and men left in New Caledonia and quartered at the Tontouta Air Base.



COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

4 august, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (5 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty). O915 two PBY's joined the convoy. O945 two destroyers joined the convoy. 1355 anchored in channel off the island of Santos, New Hebredes.

(May and)

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WAR DIARY

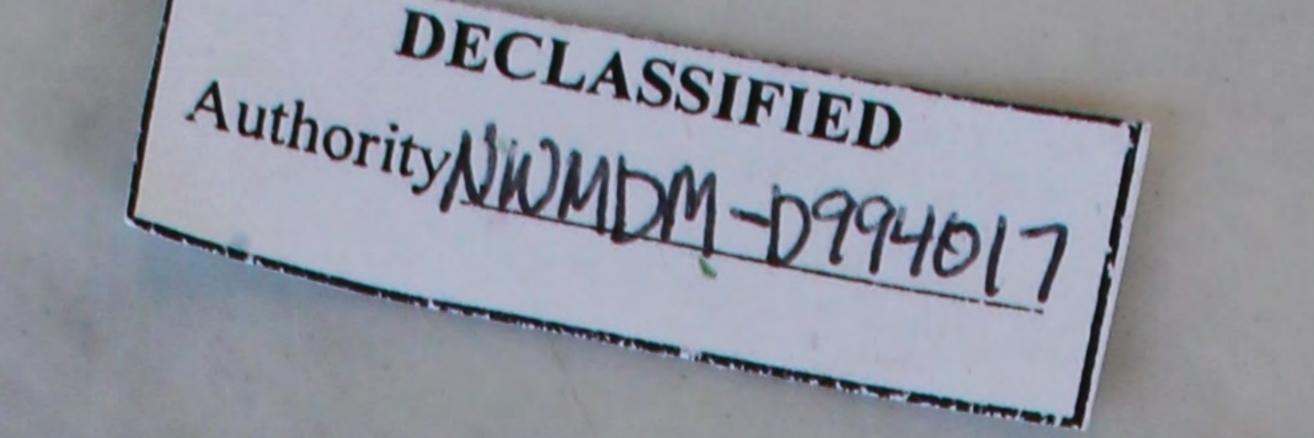
COMPTDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

A August, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty). 0915 two PBY's joined the convoy. 0945 two destroyers joined the convoy. 1355 anchored in channel off the island of Santos, New Hebredes.

(May and)



COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

E Busust. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (detached duty 6), 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty). Warehouse and Dock space obtained at Noumea. At Santos unloading operations in force. Pecilities in hand: 3 lighters (20 ton capacity) distance of 3 miles to landing area. Working detail of 85 men sent ashore to build dock.

18 men detailed to camp site area to plan arrangement.

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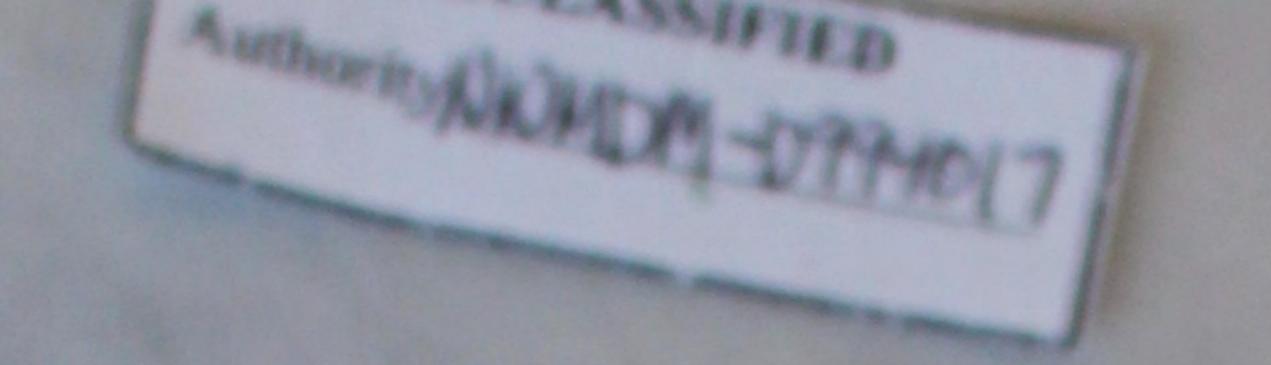
WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

6 August, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty), 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty). Continued unloading operations. Q.M. property, ordnance equipment, engineering and parachute equipment sent ashore. Dock completed at noon. Detail at Tontouta awaiting orders.



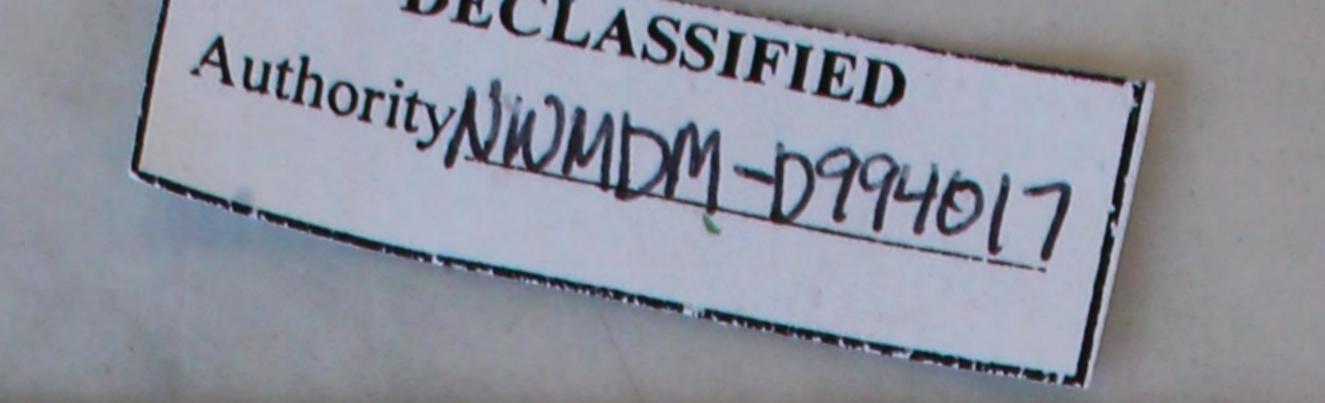
WAR BEARY

DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF THE

Marine Observation Squadron 261, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.H.F.

Z_023162. 1949.

Strength 38 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty). Squadron officially disembarked from the U.S.S. Curtis.



COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

BANGUL 1942.

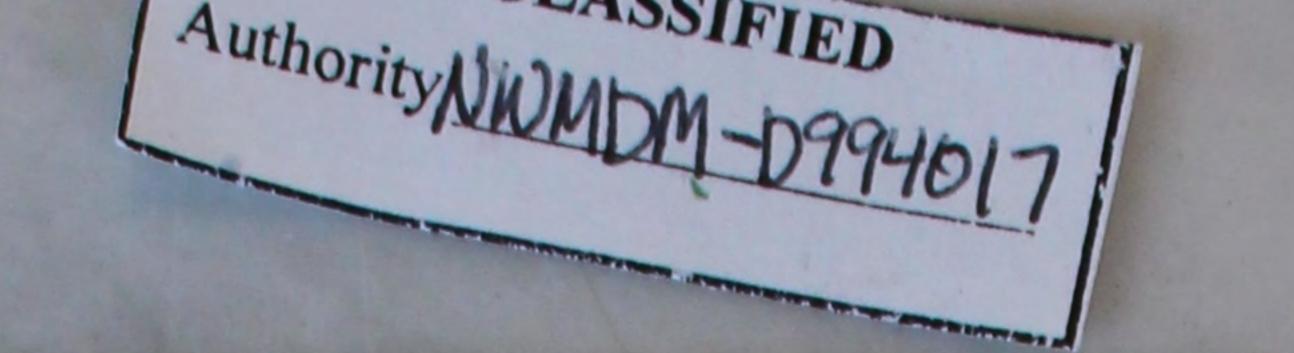
Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty).

At Noumes; 1200, U.S.S. Aleyone arrived carrying squadron material. Squadron Rad-ar equipment taken from the ship.

Remainder of squadron property being loaded.

At Sentos: All equipment removed from the Curtis.

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COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

BAUGUL 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty).

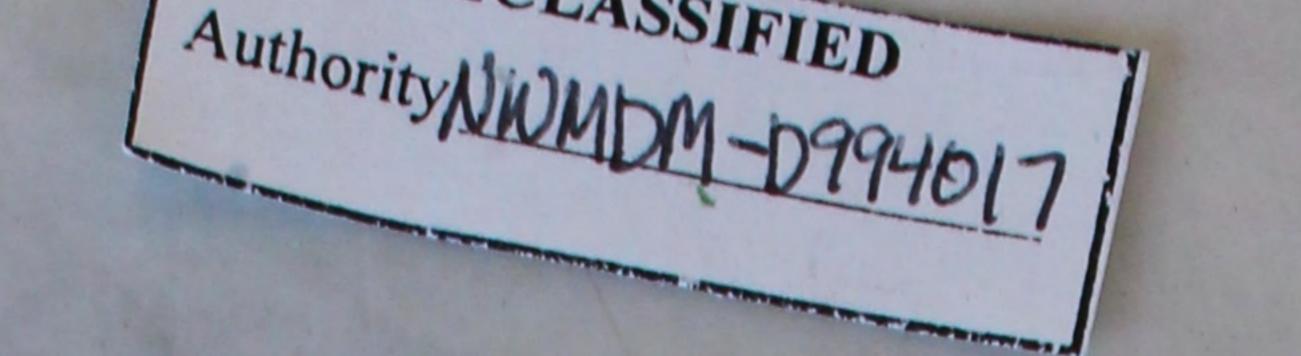
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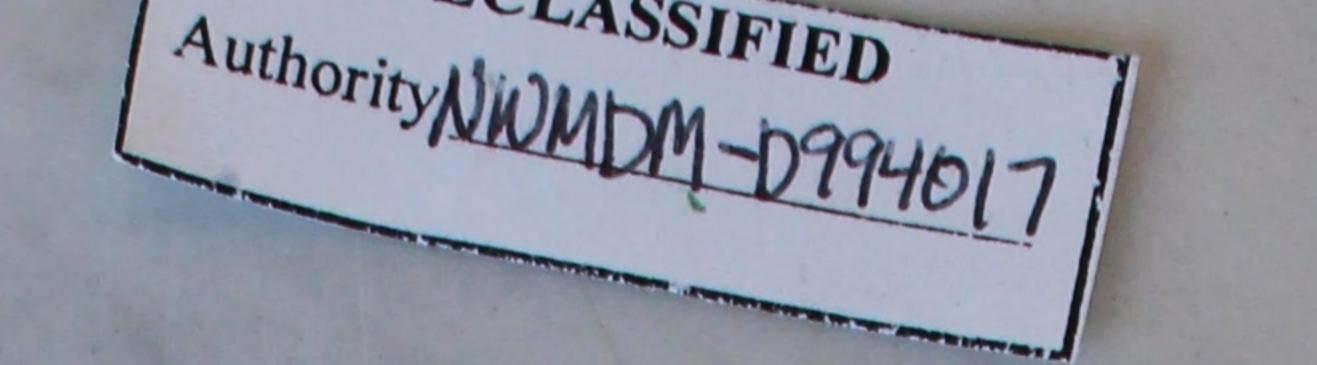
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

9 Munic. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty).

At Nousea: Loading completed at 0200. Ship sailed at 1000. At 1100 Lt. Ccl. Hart received orders from Com Air So Pac via Col. Rich to lead flight schelon to New Base as soon as weather permits.

At Santos: Telephone communication in operation. Field installation spotted and tentage erected. Parts of transportation and ordnance section servicing Army 3-17's. Captain Welch flown to Northern part of island in J2F to look for possible Rad-ar site.



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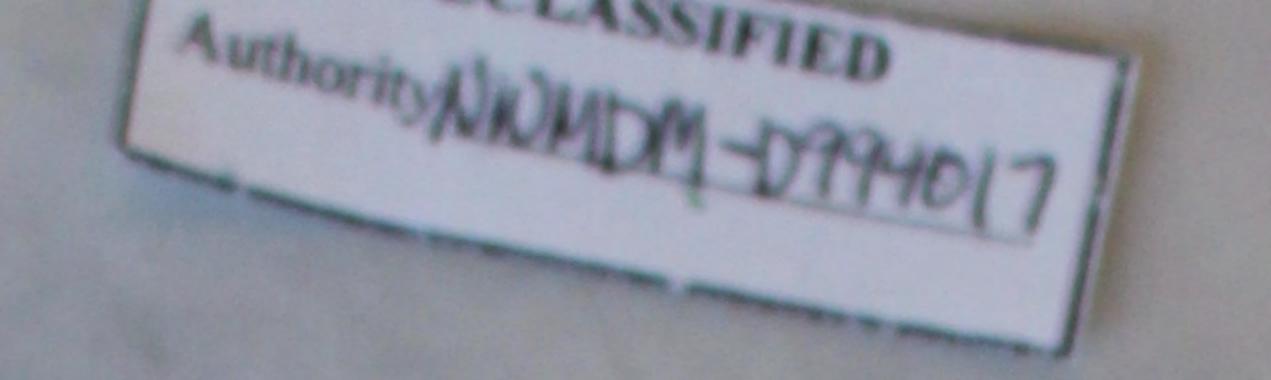
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Great Wing F.M.F.

10 mant, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 269 Enlisted (7 detached duty).

At Tontoute: 1130, 11 planes took off for P.D.Q. Landed 1200. Remaining 4 planes took off at 1500. Landed at 1500.

At Santos: Tents and activities moved to a now centralized location. Air raid alarm in operation.



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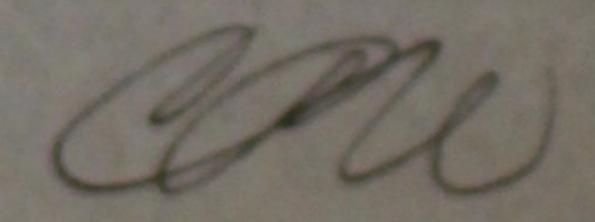
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

11_SERIEL_1942_

Strength 32 Officers (6 detached duty) 268 Enlisted (7 detached duty).

At P.D.Q. 15 planes took off for Roses at 0715 escorted by 8-26 and Lookheed Hudson with crew members. Landed at Roses at 0900. At 1330, 13 planes took off for Buttons. Landed at 1430 at Santos. Captain Welch returned from stranded trip to northern Santos.

U.S.S. Aleyone anchored in channel with remainder of squadron property and equipment. 2nd Lt. Pardee, TSgt. Farmer, SSgt. Anderson, Corp Robinson, and Pfc Thomson aboard.



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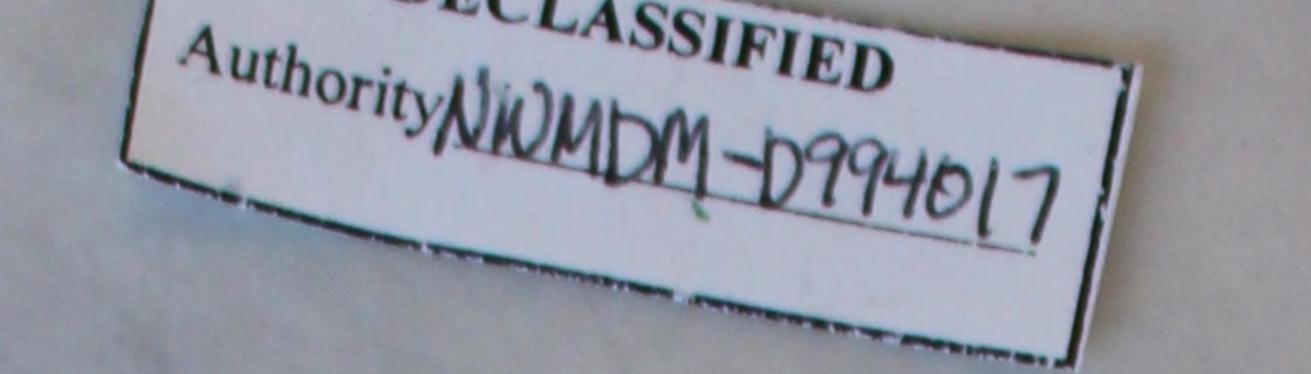
WAR DIARY

CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

12 mount. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (five detached duty) 268 Enlisted (three detached duty). Planes assigned 18; planes in commission 14; planes in transit 3. (aboard U.S.S. Aloyone). Lt. Yunck arrived from Roses at 1700. Pilots assigned to patrols.

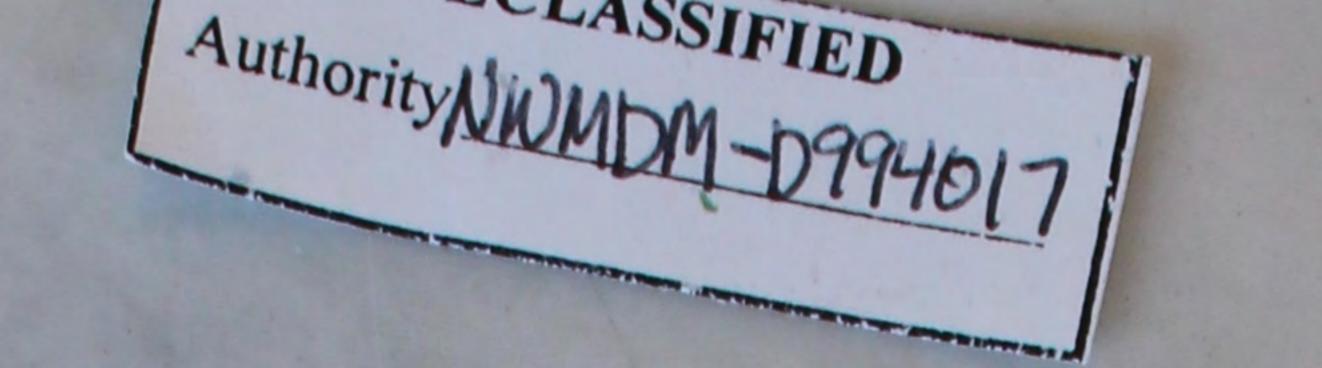


CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

13 August. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached duty) 268 Enlisted (three detached duty). Captain Campbell, Lt. Spurlock, Lt. Whitten returned from STAD with task force in offensive against Soloman Islands. Lt. Schuesaler and Lt. Kirby, unreported. Major Hayes, Lt. Rutledge on STAD with task forces. Lt. Col. Hart placed in command of interceptor and fighter forces at Santos. U.S.S. Aleyone unloading operations begun. Sea and land patrols in force.



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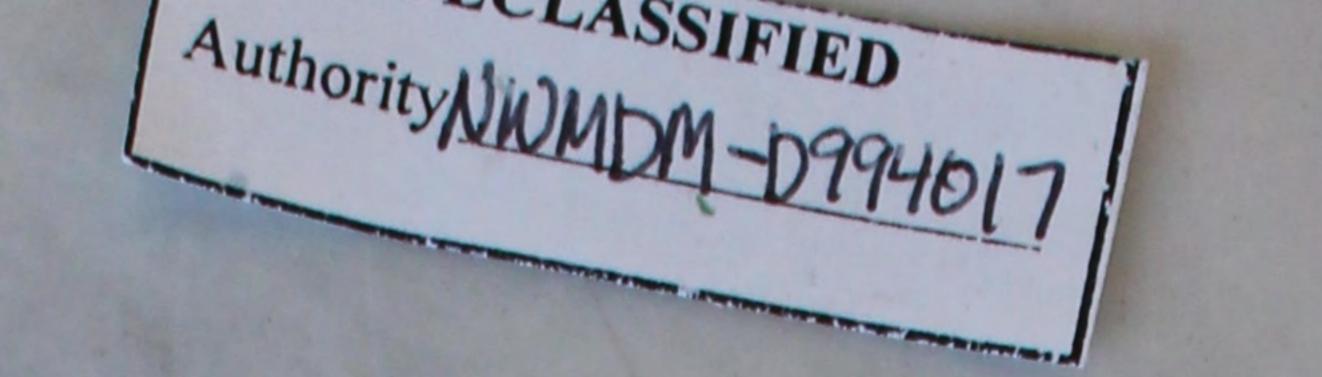
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

14 August, 1942.

Strength 52 Officers (four detsched duty) 268 Enlisted (three detsched duty). Planes assigned 18, planes in commission 13.

One SNJ-3 towed from dock to field. Lt. Kobler ground looped plane bureau No. 1894; Squadron No. 4. Damaged right wing. Minor repairs only to restore to flight status. No injury to personnel. Two plane sections, patrols at dawn, 0545 0715; noon, (two shifts) 1030 1200 and 1145 1315; dusk, 0430 0500.

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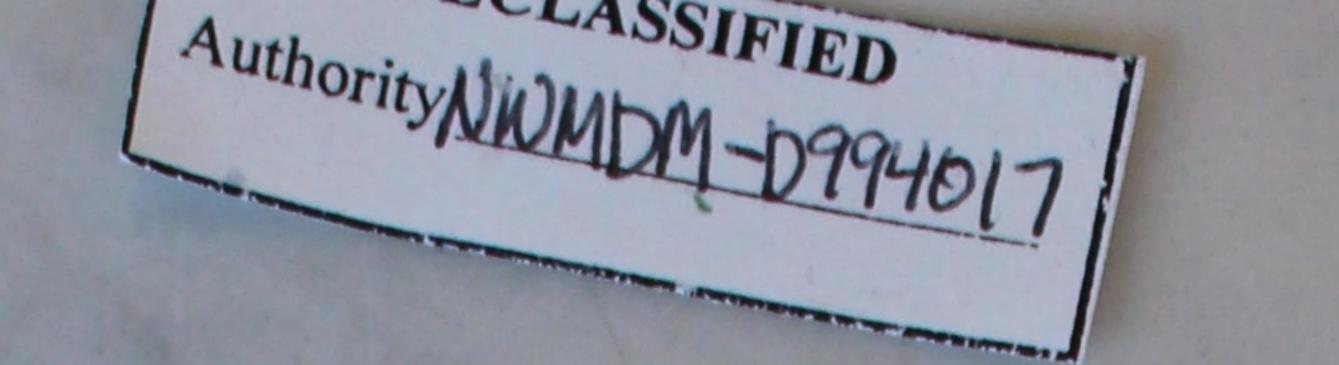
CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

la menst. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached duty) 268 Enlisted (three detached duty). Planes assigned 19, planes in commission, 14. All transportation units moved from ship. Unloading details sent aboard ship. See and land patrols in force.

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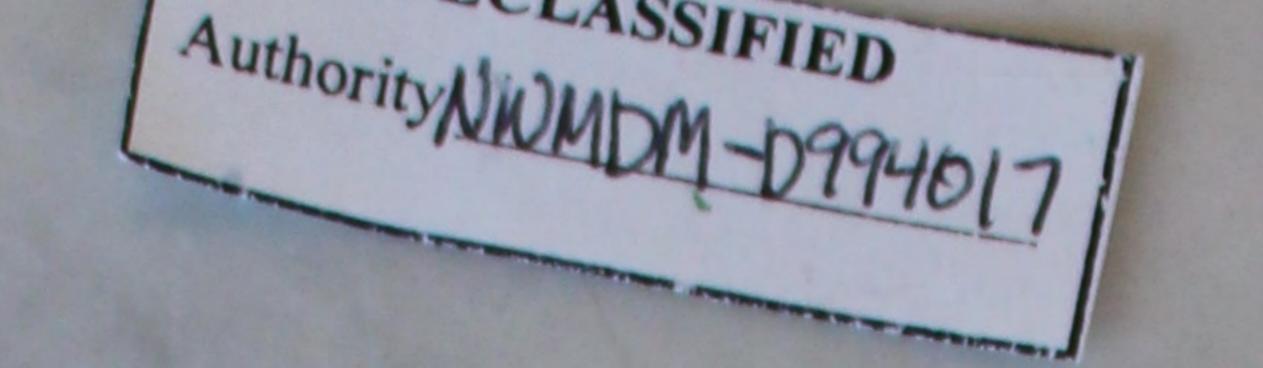
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

16 august. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers, (four detached duty) 267 Enlisted, (two detached). Continued normal sea and land patrols.

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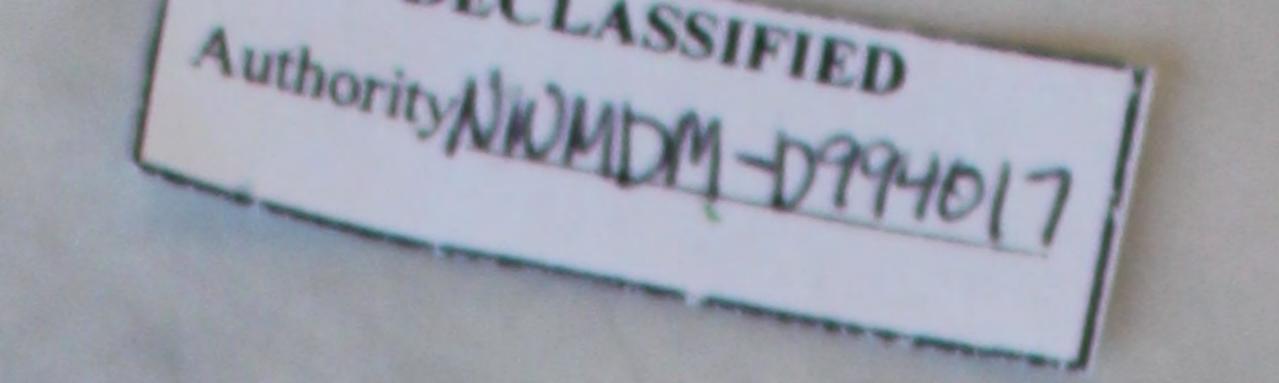
CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

17 august. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached duty), 267 Enlisted (two detached). Continued unloading operations. Air raid alarm sounded at 1410. Enemy aircraft sighted 200 miles from base headed our way. All planes at the proper times, took off in divisions and patroled areas close to the field. Secure sounded at 1705, with no contact. Pvt. Baird transferred to the U.S.S. Solace as of 9 August, 1942.

and the



CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

18 August. 1948.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached) 267 Enlisted. (two detached). Continued loading operation. Radar equipment, Radar personnel of Captain Welch, and seven men, Sgt Cosner, four ground defense members, one cook, one messman and one corposan assembled and prepared for movement to Radar location on North point of Santos, 52 miles distant. Field electric lighting system erected on field. Transportation returned duty of fueling B-17's to Army. Gunnery practice held by pilots.

Daily report of bomb expenditures - 0.

Authority NWMDM-D994017

WAR DIARY

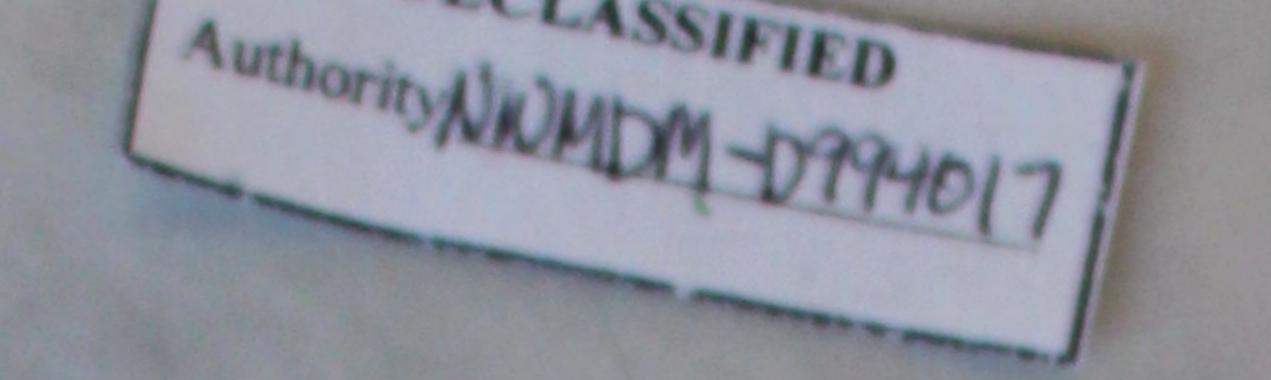
COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

19 August. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached), 267 Enlisted (two detached). Planes assigned, 19; planes in commission, 15.

Moved SNJ-3 wings to field. Captain Welch and Rad-ar complement embarked for Rad-ar site. Lt. Livingston arrived with plane in commission from Roses. Normal land and sea patrols. Gunnery routine for pilots.

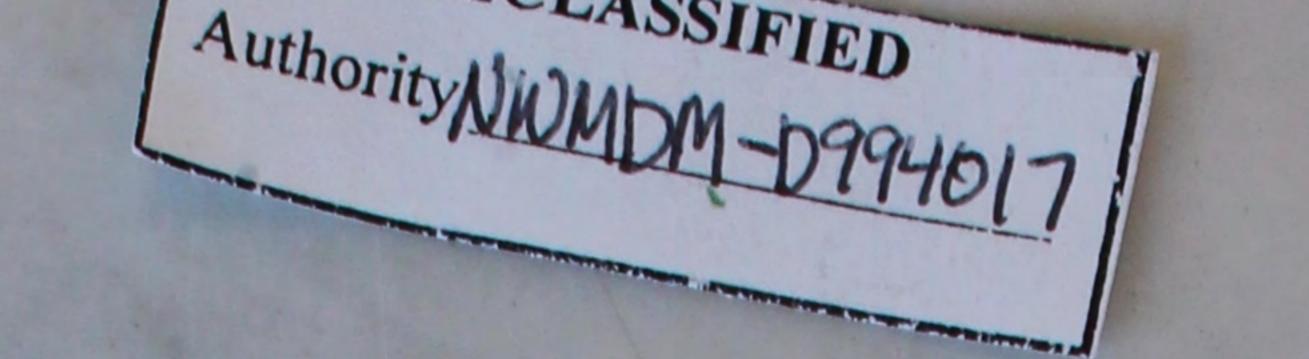


CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

20 ARRIEL 1942.

Strength 32 Officers, (four detached), 267 Enlisted, (two detached). Normal land and sea patrols and gunnery practice for pilots was day's routine.



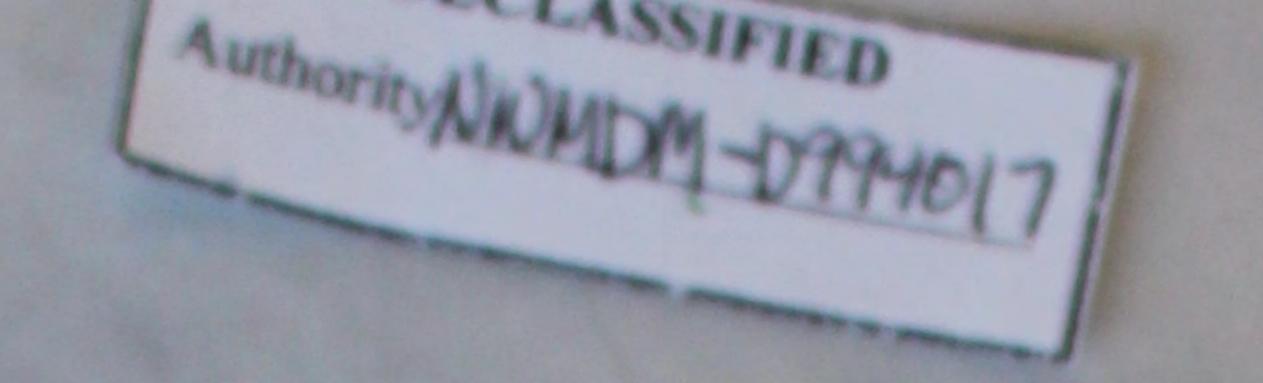
COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under Second Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

21 Ment 1942

Strength 32 Officers, (four detached), 267 Enlisted (two detached). Promoted six staff Sergeants, 13 Corporals, 13 Sergeants, of 8 August, 1942. Also 1PHM 2/c and 1PHM 3/c as of 1 August. Normal land and sea patrols. Gunnery routine for pilots. Stf. Sgt. Kelly, Corporal Lipmore, New Zealand Army temporarily attached for casouflage duty.

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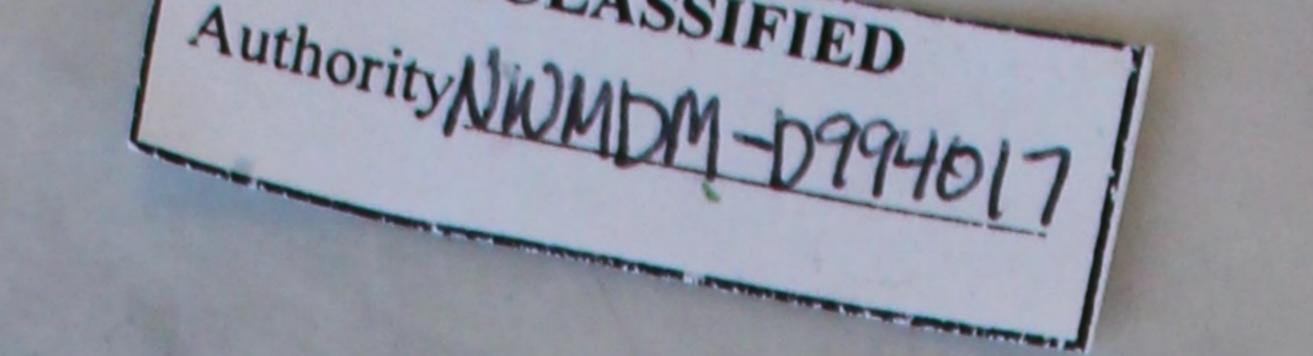
Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

22 ALEUEL 1942.

Strength 32 Officers, (four detached) 267 Enlisted (two detached). 2nd. Lt. Pardee, and TSgt. Farmer, SSgt. Anderson, Corp. Robinson, Pfc. Thompson, officially released from temporary aviation duty. Pvt. Pendergast tried by Deck Court, (Captain N. R. Campbell) for disobedience of orders.

An All-New #210354 from Commarainwingspac stated that this squadron initially assigned to Marine Wing 2 is reassigned to Marine Wing 1.

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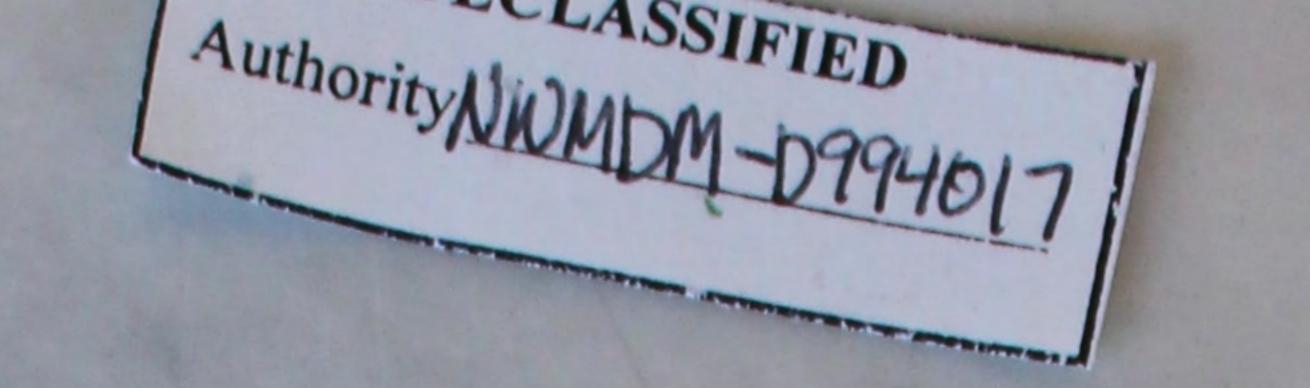
COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

23 August. 1942.

Strength, 32 Officers (four detached) 267 Enlisted (two detached). Planes assigned 19, Planes in commission 15. Normal land and sea patrols. Gunnery routine for pilots.

(and)



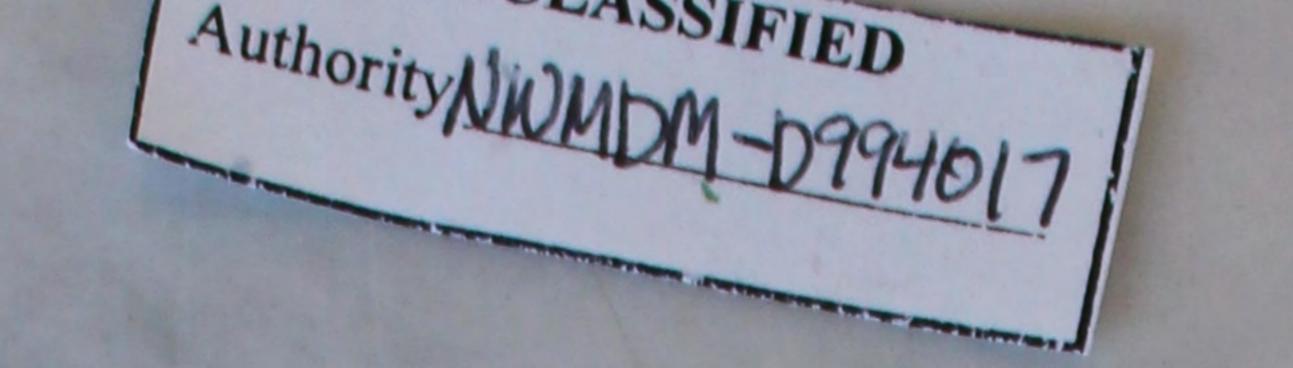
COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

24 August. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached), 267 Enlisted, (two detached). Lt. Livingston crashed F4F-3 on landing. Minor damage to plane. Slight cut on head of pilot. Six photo personnel on photographic mission with B-17's. On return from mission, one B-17 crashed at 2215 as a result of heavy rain, ceiling zero, visibility zero. Six crew members killed, four injured. Two photographic personnel returned from mission. Normal land and sea patrols.

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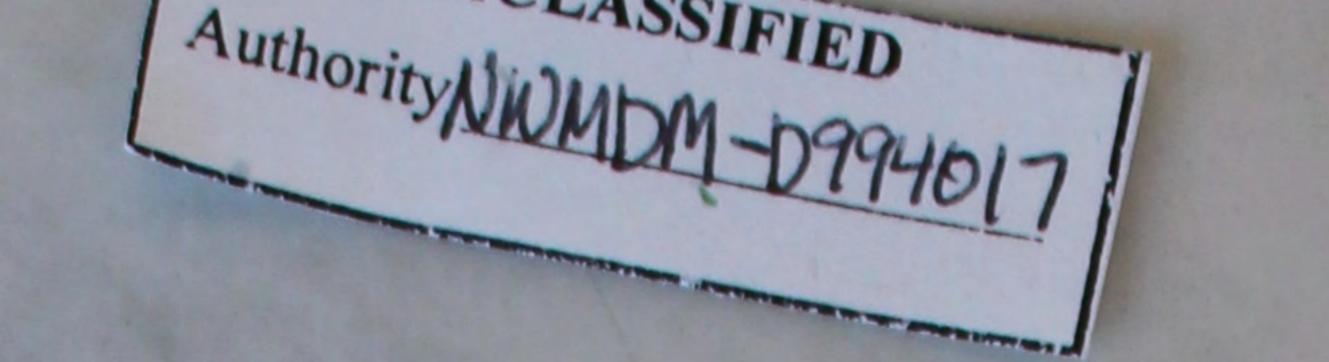
COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Narine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

25 August. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers, (four detached duty), 267 Enlisted (two detached duty). Four photo personnel returned from photographic mission after remaining at Roses over-night. Plane damaged by Lt. Livingston repaired and in Flight.

(May)



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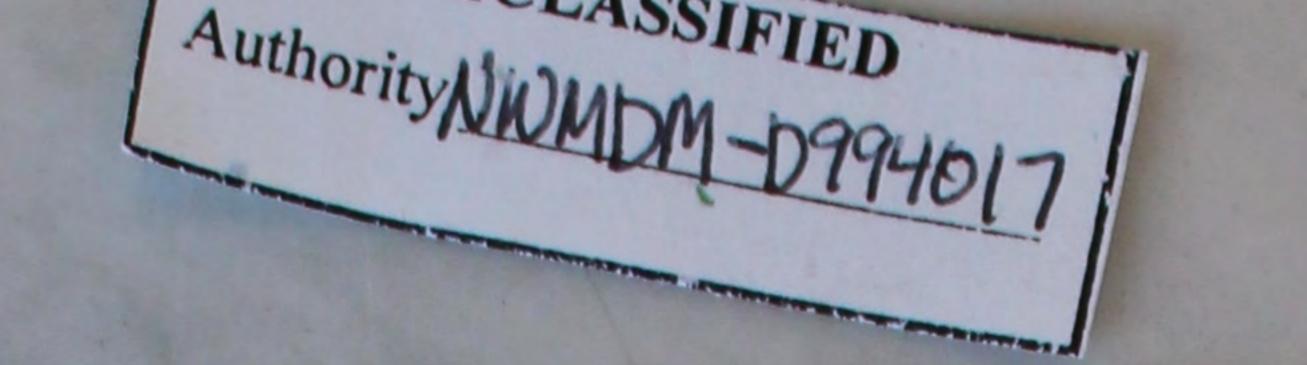
COMPTDEMETAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

26 Manat. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached), 267 Enlisted (two detached). Planes assigned 19, planes in commission, 18.
Normal land and sea patrols.

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COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

27 August, 1942.

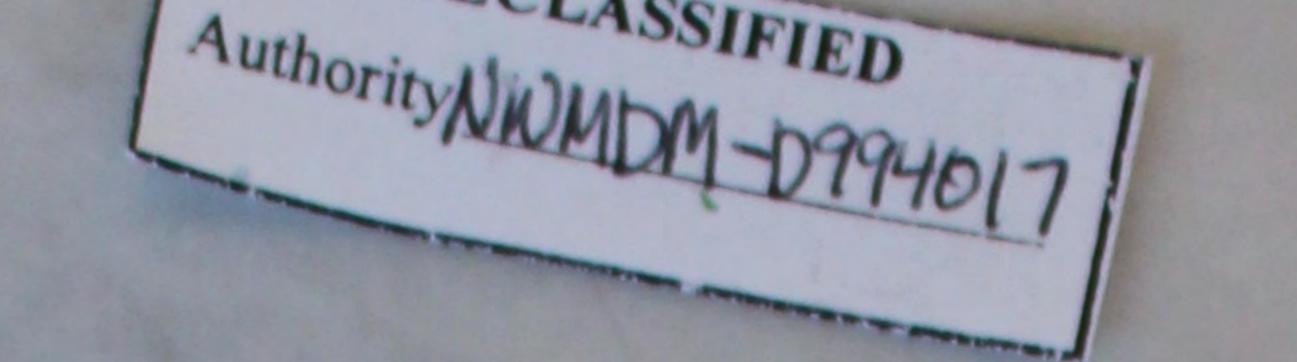
Strength 32 Officers (four detached), Enlisted 267 (two detached). Planes assignment, 20; planes in commission, 16.

Plane P4F-7, bureau No. 5265 assigned by authority of Com Car

Pac secret dispatch number 212159. Normal land and sea patrols.

Major Campbell and Lt. Col. Hayes received confirmation of promotion to next higher rank.

(Male)



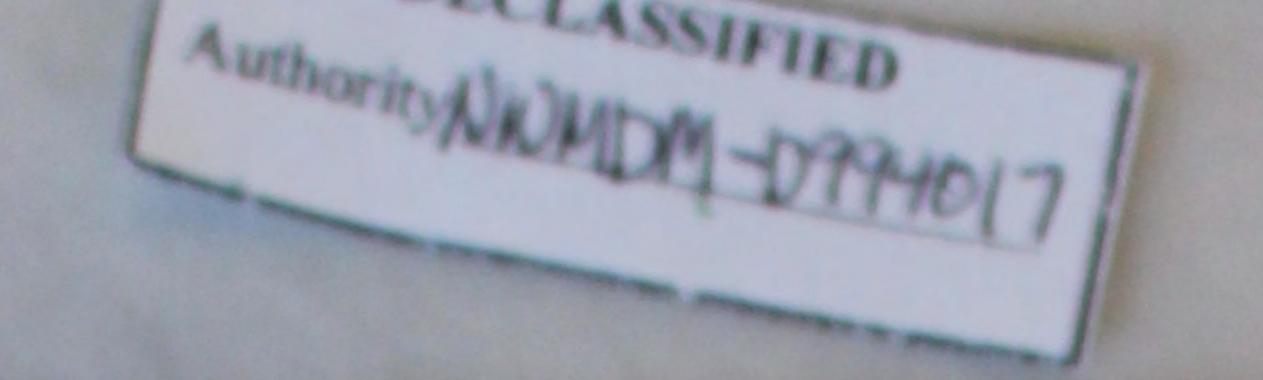
CONFIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

28 AUGUSE, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached); Enlisted 267 (two detached). Planes assigned 20; planes in commission 16.
Gunnery routine.

(May)

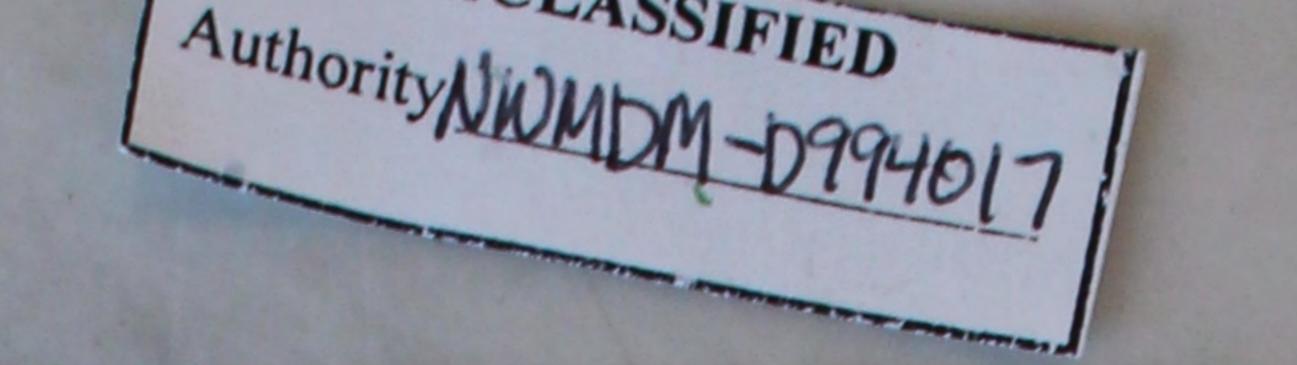


COMPTDEMETAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

29 August. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached), Enlisted 267 (two detached). Planes assigned 24, planes in transit 1; planes in commission 19. Planes F4F-4, Bureau No's 02071, 02079, 02082 received from E'fate by authority of ComCarPac. secret dispatch 140417. Two squadrons (VMF 224 and VMSB 231) arrived from Roses under Col. Wallace. Messed and quartered with squadron. Normal land and sea patrols. Gunnery practice for pilots.



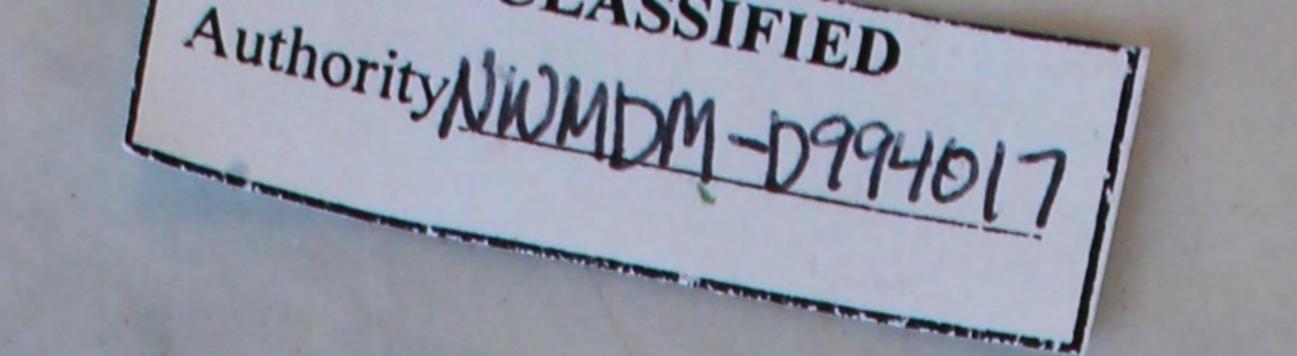
COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

30 AMENIET. 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached), 267 Enlisted (two detached). Planes assigned, 24; planes in commission, 19; planes in transit, 1. One SNJ-3 temporarily assigned from Roses. Two visiting squadrons took-off for Gaetus. Arrangements made with 2nd Marine paymaster for pay purposes. Black-out was exectued tonight after unidentified submarine was heard.

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WAR DIAMY

COMPIDENTIAL

Marine Observation Squadron 251, operating under First Marine Aircraft Wing F.M.F.

31 August, 1942.

Strength 32 Officers (four detached duty, one temporarily assigned), Enlisted 267 (two detached). Plane F4F-4 Bureau Number 02085 flown from Roses. Lt. Kirk and Captain Yeaman flew SNJ-3 to Roses for ferry trip. Lt. Kahn (USW) temporarily attached for intelligence duty. Two squadrons, one torpedo, and one dive bomber (Navy), arrived at Buttons. Normal land and Sea patrols. Gunnery routine for pilots.

and